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SIX MOST INDEBTED AREA COUNTRIES END MEETING

PY171745 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0815 GMT 15 Dec 84

[By Pilar Gonzalez Moreno]

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 15 Dec (EFE) -- Latin America must overcome the myth that the debtor countries must not undertake concerted action in defense of their interests, and they must use the fact of their reemerging democracies a basis for their renegotiations. This was the main conclusion reached by the representatives of the six most indebted Latin American countries who on 14 December closed 2 days of debate on economic adjustment and the development of the region.

Felix Pena, a former Argentine under secretary of international trade, said that there is room for multilateral cooperation, adding that this cooperation should be aimed at addressing foreign debt problems and the economic adjustment and development of the Latin American countries. The representatives of Brazil, Mexico, Venezuela, Argentina, Peru, and Chile agreed that the primary objective for the development of their economies is control of inflation. Enrique Iglesias, executive secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America, noted that the regional inflation, which now stands at 180 percent, is the main obstacle to reconciling the objectives of economic development, along with the high interest rates on the foreign debt.

Minos Zombanakis, former director of the First Boston Corporation, said that the unanimous request for the reduction of interest rates, which absorbs 40 percent of the region's exports and 50 percent of its savings, will have no echo, because the interest rates do not depend on the will of the international banks. After the above observation was made, IMF representative Walter Robichek said that the international banks should lend money to those countries they know will be able to return it, without being concerned about the date of the repayments, which could be made with part of the money earned from exports. This solution can be viable for Mexico and Brazil, but not for other countries. This is the case of Peru, whose representative Richard Webb said that his country ceased to service its foreign debt 5 months ago and is now bankrupt. After 2 days of debate, the six largest Latin American debtor countries, with a total debt of some $300 billion, emphasized that their economies are vulnerable, and that therefore there is a need for a long-term strategy for dealing with their foreign debt. Such a strategy should include low interest rates and loans so that these economies can continue the process of adjustment and then begin the process of development which is indispensable for the region's political and social stability. These topics should be brought up in the next round of negotiations.

RIVER PLATE BASIN FUND MEETS IN URUGUAY

PY171942 Paris AFP in Spanish 1522 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Text] Punta del Este, Uruguay, 15 Dec (AFP) -- It was announced today that the governors of the member-countries of the River Plate Basin Fund (Fonplata) [Fondo Financiero de la Cuenca del Plata], who are meeting in Punta del Este, 140 km east of Montevideo, have decided to accept the Argentine offer to contribute $50 million to the Fund. This contribution, which will be allocated to future projects in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay, the Fonplata member-countries, will allow Fonplata's financial capabilities to be expanded. During the meeting of financial experts, which is being held before the meeting of foreign ministers of the member-countries beginning on Monday, the annual report, the general balance sheet, the profit and loss sheet up to 30 June 1984, the budget for the new business year, independent auditors, and other issues on the agenda will be discussed.

ALFONSIN ON ACHIEVEMENTS, PLANS, PROSPECTS

PY171830 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 17 Dec 84 p 7

[Text] (NA) -- President Raul Alfonsin said he would insist on a labour union law which would have the minorities represented on the leaderships, following the rejection by the Senate of a first bill earlier this year, and rejected any possibility of forming a coalition cabinet.

In an exclusive interview published in yesterday's edition of CLARIN, Alfonsin also claimed there was no possibility of a new outbreak of subversion and said he was not happy with the performance of the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces in the trials for human rights violations during the so-called dirty war against subversion. The president also gave assurances the level of real wages would not drop and said the sacrifices the population would be asked to make in 1985 would not be greater than in 1984.

Alfonsin said the main achievement of his government during its first year in office was in the field of human rights which were now respected all round and added the next target was to combat inflation. Conditions were becoming favourable both in the labour and business fields for the task of the socio-economic contract, which was the implementation of a policy of alliances, the President said. Such alliances were not political in the sense of party alliances but meant everybody was considering Argentina as a joint enterprise, he added.

On his own Radical Party, Alfonsin said its convention had been categorical in opening its doors to non-party candidates in keeping with present-day requirements. The president said the only enemies of his government were those who did not accept the rules of the game in democracy, but added while his government wanted to listen to other political opinions he was strongly opposed to a coalition government.

On the government's foreign policy Alfonsin stressed the need of participation in the North-South dialogue as well as the South-South dialogue "because it is a struggle against injustice, colonalism, and the presence of imperialism." Argentina had to continue working with the United Nations Committee on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) within the framework of the Group of 77 and the non-aligned nations, he added. The president said Argentina did not have any fundamental ally but its foreign policy was necessarily linked to the need for achieving Latin American integration as well as maintaining mature relations with the north.

Alfonsin asked for a lower key in press criticism of the government, saying newspapers sometimes used adjectives and expressions more suited for fighting against a dictatorial government than for discussion with a democratic government.

On the economic scene the president insisted the level of real wages would not drop, saying his government had refused to apply a shock policy because it would be unjust. He claimed if the government followed the established guidelines to combat inflation there would be no recession.

Despite criticizing the Supreme Council's sluggish pace, he defended the government's policy of allowing military offenders to be tried by the military saying there were difficulties in all spheres of activity, but he was convinced his government had done the right thing. The president said justice should not be confused with vengeance and urged a policy of working for the prestige of the Armed Forces which he said did not mean justifying what had been wrongly done.

CAPUTO ON FALKLANDS STRATEGY; LEAVES FOR URUGUAY

PY172008 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1401 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 Dec (NA) -- Foreign Minister Dante Caputo today reiterated that the Argentine strategy in the conflict over the sovereignty of the Malvinas Islands consists of "working on the British domestic front" to inform British public opinion of the stand of the Alfonsin administration in the negotiations being held to settle the issue. Caputo stated that the government's plan is directed at "opposition sectors within the British Parliament" as well as at other sectors within the ruling party, "where there are signs of support for negotiations with Argentina on the Malvinas issue."

Caputo made these comments at the metropolitan airport before leaving for Uruguay, where he will participate in the 15th meeting of the foreign ministers of the River Plate Basin and will also meet with Uruguayan President-elect Julio Maria Sanguinetti. Caputo stated that he will discuss with Sanguinetti "issues of bilateral interest" and will convey "the regards of the Argentine Government" on his victory in the presidential elections.

Concerning the steps on the negotiations with Great Britain over the Malvinas, Caputo stated that "part of the strategy" drawn up by Argentina is to "work on the British domestic front" to inform British public opinion so that it knows "the truth and to show the British people the logic and rationality of the Argentine Government."

JUSTICIALIST FACTION ELECTS NEW NATIONAL COUNCIL

PY172132 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1156 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 Dec (TELAM) -- The Argentine Justicialist Party is now split between two parallel leaderships. The faction that follows Lorenzo Miguel and Herminio Iglesias has elected a new nationsl council, while the other faction led by provincial delegates who on Saturday withdrew from the national congress has announced that the congress will reconvene on 2 February in San Miguel de Tucuman.

The Iglesias faction of the Justicialist Party met yesterday at the Odeon Theater and elected Isabel Peron president of the naticnal council, Santa Fe Governor Jose Maria Vernet first vice president, and Lorenzo Miguel second vice president. According to Deputy Rodolfo Ponce, the delegates of this faction had the necessary quorum to take these steps "because the established quorum is 50 percent plus 1 of the representatives who had shown up for the congress on Saturday, and we had between 315 and 320 today [Sunday], " he said.

At the meeting Herminio Iglesias was appointed secretary general, Saul Ubaldini became secretary for labor affairs, and Raul Matera was put in charge of the Planning Secretariat. Rodolfo Ponce was confirmed as press secretary, while Julian Licastro was appointed secretary for indoctrination. Vicente Jogan from Formosa Province will take over as secretary for domestic affairs; Torcuato Fino became secretary for institutional affairs: Carlos Spadone took over the Economy and Finance Secretariat: Teresa Mesia de Palma is in charge of the Women's Secretariat; Antonio Calvino is secretary fo mobilization: Alfonso Millan (Glassworkers Union) took over the Social Action Secretariat; Manuel Diz Rey (Traveling Salesmen's Union) is the new secretary for international relations; and Senator Liliana Gurdulich de Correa was elected secretary for scientific and technical affairs.

The congress held at the Odeon Theater did not discuss the Beagle treaty. It created an advisory commission that will instruct the parliamentarians, in practice only a group of deputies because the senators have sided with the rural representatives, and declared itself in permanent session so as to meet in 90 days, according to Torcuato Fino, "in order to try to bring about unity."

The new leadership elected at the Odeon Theater was proclaimed amid general rejoicing. The press was allowed to enter the theater only after the congress ended at 2100 local time. It was difficult for journalists to get on the stage in the midst of the ensuing general confusion. Photographers climbed onto the main table to get better pictures of the new leadership, but eventually the table collapsed. Ponce tried to calm everyone, but the drummers of El Tula paid him no heed and continued drumming. The slogans were all in favor of Herminio Iglesias and those present were giving him a standing ovation.

Lorenzo Miguel finally managed to speak after several minutes. He said that he was accepting the post of second vice president pending a decision by the Metal Workers Union (UOM) and the 62 Organizations. He explained that he resigned as first vice president "because I feel political affairs must be handled by a politician."

Lorenzo Miguel than introduced Vernet, who began his address by acknowledging that he was taking over at first vice president at the most difficult moment in the history of Peronism. He also said that "we cannot allow the disintegration of the nation and the (Justicialist) movement, which are one and the same." Vernet stated that the was pained over the withdrawal of the rural delegates, and said that everyone makes mistakes. He indicated that there were no judges around, and that mistakes should be corrected. He made it clear, however, that there is no room for private interests. He went on to say that among the delegates who left, there are many who believe that they are doing the right thing, while some are scoundrels who try to pull people their way and take advantage of the situation. He asked the delegates present to go after each one of the dissidents so that they can atone for their mistakes and help us understand our own mistakes, and all of us together can retake the path which (Juan Domingo) Peron laid out for us. Vernet announced that there will be a secretariat for affairs, "and we will hold a congress of the youth so that they can choose their own representatives."

Meanwhile, the rural delegates, who include the entire bloc of senators, more than 70 national deputies, 9 of the 12 provincial governors (only Puricelli, Vernet, and Floro Bogado of Formosa support Iglesias), and approximately 350 national delegates, yesterday set up a temporary board coordinated by Senator Oraldo Britos. They also announced that they will reconvene the aborted congress on 2 February 1985 in Tucuman.

The dissident delegates will meet again today to streamline the temporary board, which now has 48 members (2 for every electoral district). Jose Maria Manzano and Ruben Cardozo, first and second vice presidents of the Justicialist bloc in the Chamber of Deputies; Deputies Diego Guelar, Alberto Melon, and Adan Pedrini; and delegates Alberto Fonrouge and Malva Herrera are, among others, part of the dissident faction.

Some of the Justicialist deputies also criticized the congress for having failed to issue an official statement on the agreement with Chile over the Beagle Channel which will be submitted to the Foreign Relations Committee of the Chamber of Deputies on Tuesday, leaving it up to the legislators to make a decision by themselves.

At the end of the congress, Vernet told journalists: "There are difficult times ahead of us, we will have to overcome a very difficult phase as far as Peronism is concerned, but I believe that we will bring about unity through diligence, aiblity, and sacrifice."

He criticized the delegates who left the congress on Saturday by saying: "They are the ones who talk about democracy, but they do not respect the decisions of the majority." Asked whether the congress led by Lorenzo Miguel and Herminio Iglesias could be impeached, Vernet said that "everything has been notarized, the majority was present, the election was held according to the law, and the Peronist drummers were present because we are a movement and that is one of the ways in which we express ourselves."

When it was pointed out that there has, in fact, been a split between the delegates, Vernet stressed: "I am not going to split Peronism, I will not throw anyone out of the party. We want to bring it together, and we will call upon every one of our fellow partisans who may have made a mistake." Further on he said that the upcoming congressional election in 1984 will result in half the Chamber of the Deputies being charged. "Each province will appoint its deputies, but we will maintain doctrinarian unity. This will help overcome all the problems, which I feel are transitory, resulting from the death of General Peron and the 30 October elections." He said: "We need time to think it over; to get rid of our sorrows and guilt. There is no heaven or hell here. What we have is a dark purgatory through which we must all live for a while."

Despite the high spirits at the Odeon Theater when the new leadership was nominated, several delegates evidenced marked displeasure over their failure to obtain positions within the highest Justicialist body. There were some who felt that certain new members of the Justicialist council did not deserve the appointment in view of their lack of party background, while the logical hopes of loyal party members went unfulfilled.

Dissidents Consider New Congress

PY172158 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1605 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 Dec (NA) -- The provisional commission designated by the dissident members of the Justicialist congress met here today to study the legal and administrative aspects of calling for a new congress on 2 February 1985. The meeting was attended by representatives of the Federal Capital, Buenos Aires, and most of the other provinces.

According to Senator Oraldo Britos, the provisional commission is supported by the 67 Buenos Aires Province delegates and 20 from the Federal Capital who oppose the current leadership headed by Herminio Iglesias. Britos added that 11 Peronist governors, 20 senators, and 100 national deputies support the commission. The provisional commission is made up of two representatives per district and is charged with organizing "administratively and politically" the Peronist congress that reportedly will be held in Tucuman on 2 February.

According to what has been learned, over the past 48 hours there have been two attempts at rapprochement with the official sector, which yesterday elected Santa Fe Governor Jose Maria Vernet first vice president and Herminio Iglesias secretary of the council. In both cases the Governors of Salta and Santiago del Estero Roberto Romero and Carlos Jaurez, respectively, reportedly met with Lorenzo Miguel and asked him to reconsider his position, but both attempts failed.

Britos said that the dissident sector has the support of most congressional delegates, and "since we were in a theater, they (the official sector) had many puppet congressmen." He went on to say that on 15 December, when the dissident congressional delegates left, "we signed a minute in the presence of a notary public" noting the number of representatives who are against "the election of future authorities by two or three congressmen."

One of the possibilities considered at noon today was that of declaring the congress in "permanent session" until 2 February, for which the legal aspects are being studied.

CUADRA: GOVERNMENT-CHURCH RELATIONS 'EXCELLENT'

PY171339 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] Minister Secretary General of Government Francisco Javier Cuadra has told reporters that the government maintains excellent relations with a large sector of the church, although there have been difficulties with another sector. Cuadra said that in his opinion, one sector of the Chilean Catholic Church seems to have adopted a critical position toward the government. That is why there have been difficulties, he explained. However, Cuadra pointed out, the government of President Augusto Pinochet has been very respectful not only of the Catholic Church but of all other religious faiths as well. He explained that the government will contribute to the common good as long as the various creeds comply with their specific educational and ethical tasks.

Cuadra stressed that during this government, the Catholic Church has been favored with a decree that permits religious training in secondary schools, something that had not happened in more than 50 years. He said that Pope John Paul II reminded Chilean bishops of this fact when the latter paid their latest ad limina visit to the Vatican. Cuadra pointed out that the government maintains very good relations with the Holy See, and that it continues to fund Catholic universities and private educational institutions, most of which follow Catholic principles.

AD SUBMITS PROPOSAL FOR PEACEFUL TRANSITION

PY180136 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2010 GMT 17 Dec 84

[By Albino Mallo]

[Text] Santiago, 17 Dec (EFE) -- The Chilean opposition coalition Democratic Alliance [AD] today released the text of a document in which it sets the bases for finding a peaceful transition in Chile. The document was sent to the commanders in chief of the Army, Navy, and Air Force and to the Carabineros general director on 14 December.

The AD proposes an alternative for democracy based on the search for an agreement that will guarantee a peaceful solution based on four main points. The first, according to the AD, is the establishment of a reasonable timetable to begin a transition process and the establishment of a maximum period for the full achievement of a democratic government in March 1986. The other points include the complete reestablishment of freedoms and the end of all the exceptional rules, the election as soon as possible of a national congress through universal suffrage, and the establishment of a transitional government to face the emergency and lead the march toward democracy. According to the AD, the agreement that could be achieved on these points should lead to the creation of an institutional mechanism that will be submitted to a plebiscite, which is the only way for it to be sovereignly approved by the nation. A law should then be issued to regulate the plebiscite.

According to the AD document, this call is not inspired by party ideologies, but for the good of Chile, because the future of the nation is at stake. It adds that to face this situation, a tremendous effort is required, but that this effort will not be successful without the unity and the participation of all Chileans.

The AD feels that there are only two alternatives, the first of which is that those who hold power will continue governing at their own discretion. If this occurs the AD feels that they can only remain in power by force, and that each day they will need more force, and that proof of this is that the state of siege is in force after 11 years.

The opposition coalition feels that the other alternative is to find a peaceful solution through the reconciliation of all Chileans. This alternative simply implies returning to democracy as has happened in other Latin American countries that have undergone situations similar to ours, and the AD cites the recent cases of Argentina, Uruguay, and Brazil.

The AD feels that the fatherland is in danger and that the threat is not facing us but is within us, and will thus lead to a decline and self-annihilation. The AD believes that in view of this threat, it is foolish to try to impose a solution by force, and that the first step toward a real solution lies in no longer using force for political purposes. The AD document, which was read by socialist AD President Ricardo Lagos, states that the time has come for a frank, open, and constructive dialogue between the civilians and the military.

The document is signed by 18 representatives of the parties which make up AD: the Christian Democratic Party, the Social Democracy, the Republican Right, the Radical and Liberal Parties, and the Socialist Bloc. It has been delivered to the offices of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Carabineros that receive such documents. Lagos explained that copies of the document have also been given to Santiago Archbishop Juan Francisco Fresno, to other church representatives, and to political and social groups that do not belong to the AD. No deadline has been set for the receipt of an answer, or to consider that the action has failed. Lagos explained that the commanders in chief are responsible for the future of Chile. Lagos concluded by saying that the document belongs to the AD and that the coalition is making the proposal, but that it does not mean the exclusion or inclusion of other sectors in a possible dialogue with the military.

FORMER JUNTA MEMBER ACQUITTED OF SLANDER CHARGES

PY152255 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0408 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Text] Santiago, 14 Dec (EFE) — General Gustavo Leigh, retired, former government junta member and former Chilean Air Force (FACh) commander in chief, has been acquitted by Judge Marta Ossa in a case brought again him on charges of allegedly breaking the State Security Law. To be valid, the ruling must be upheld by the Appellate Court. The trial was held at the Interior Ministry's request, in the wake of statements that Gen Leigh made to CAUCE, an opposition magazine, in June. The magazine has now been banned under the state of siege. Judge Marta Ossa issued her ruling after listening to the report submitted by Leticia Contreras, the court prosecutor. The judge acquitted Gen Leigh on the grounds that he had committed no crime. The general had been prosecuted on charges of slandering Appellate Court member Alberto Echavarria and Interior Minister Sergion Onofre Jarpa. A spokesman for the lawyers of the general said that the ruling has upheld the right to make politicial criticism.

DAILY EVALUATES U.S. STAND ON POLITICAL SITUATION

PY141450 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 6 Dec 84 p A 3

[Editorial: "Chile and the United States"]

[Text] Any evaluation of the U.S. policy toward our country must take into account some basic premises. First, the United States has formally adopted a principle that serves as a guide for its foreign policy. It is the principle of respect for the autonomy and independence of sovereign states in matters that are their own concern.

This is a very advantageous approach, because each country is in the best position to evaluate and measure its own complex historical and sociological situation. Even more, the future of each country must be in the hands of those who face the direct consequences of their political influence, and not in the hands of those who, as distant observers, would remain unaffected by conflicts in a foreign country. Yet one should also admit that, taking into account the natural relations which exist and which must exist between nations, the United States cannot completely disregard the fate of foreign countries, particularly countries like Chile which are to some degree neighbors of the United States.

From a philosophical and political viewpoint, the United States has always upheld freedom, democracy, and human dignity. From a pragmatic viewpoint, it is convinced that a stable and democratic government is the best barrier to stop the advance of communism in the long term. In more specific words, and focusing on our own situation, it considers that there must be some political consistency and that, therefore, the defense of the Salvadoran democratic process, for example, implies that the Chilean transition process should also be supported.

This explains why the Department of State has for some time expressed its support for the return to a democratically elected civilian government in Chile. But it has also clearly stated, as was reiterated by the assistant secretary of state for Latin American affairs during his recent visit, that the terms, the mechanisms, and the manner in which this is to be accomplished is and must be sovereignly decided by the Chilean people. Therefore, it is comforting that the press reports about possible U.S. interference in Chilean domestic political affairs, either through mediation between the Chilean Government and the opposition, or in any other way, have been categorically denied by the authorities. But this does not mean that the United States cannot or must not implement its own policy toward our country. It simply means that it must establish a policy toward Chile which will effectively contribute to the achievement of the desired objectives which, one may add, are also shared by the Chilean Armed Forces and most Chileans.

Those who wish to restore democracy in Chile must take into account the need of achieving it through peaceful means and under certain conditions which would enable us to have a stable and lasting democracy. But this demands the achievement and the promotion of a minimum consensus, not only about the procedures to be used but also about certain basic principles which are the essence of democracy, and which will also calm any ideological confrontations. This implies the strengthening of a moderate political group made up of all democratic sectors which are clearly differentiated from Marxist parties and willing to reach a compromise and partly surrender their demands for the sake of an orderly transition. Moreover, these sectors must be more realistic and try to avoid futile confrontations with the government, so as to be able to achieve a great agreement between civilians and the Armed Forces, an agreement that would permit a proper transition to a stable democracy.

PRC BEGINS FIELD STUDIES FOR ANTARCTICA BASE

PY171952 Paris AFP in Spanish 1421 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Excerpts] Santiago, 17 Dec (AFP) -- It was learned in Santiago today that the PRC has started field studies for installing a base in Antarctica soon by sending two exploration ships to the South Shetland Islands. In a statement to the newspaper EL MERCURIO, the president of the Chilean Antarctic Institute, Pedro Romero Julio, stated that the future PRC research center will be built on King George Island near the Lieutenant Marsh Base of the Chilean Air Force.

BETANCUR DELIVERS SPEECH AT SENATE CLOSING

PA172020 Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 1928 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Speech by President Belisario Betancur to close the 1984 sessions of the Colombian Senate in Bogota -- live]

[Excerpts] Mr President, Messrs Senators:

Since the first came into existence, parliaments have been the supreme forum for dialogue.

As I stated in my speech opening these sessions, peace is imperative in our times and in our history. The administration that I head has dedicated its work to seeking with realistic enthusiasm paths that will bring peace closer, both internally and externally. When peace is present, it is usually not noticed since it exercises its influence on the spirit. Peace is more frequently mentioned in situations of war on imminent conflict.

Such has been the case of a region [Central America] to which we belong due to its nearness and affinity. Statesmen and poets at one time spent their exiles there. Coffee was grown there before it spread to our land.

Honorable Senators, after 2 years of patient work, the Contadora Group offers as a contribution its work to halt the expansion of the conflict and to promote the development of political alternatives. Peace is still a hope. The second half of this year has been devoted to this work for peace in Central America. Surrounded by worldwide admiration and support, it has crystalized with the Contadora Document for Peace and Cooperation in Central America that was presented on 7 September to the heads of states of the five countries of the isthmus for observation and comment. This concluded the phase of technical negotiations.

On 15 October, the foreign ministers began intense negotiations regarding a text and a consensus that will lead to a treaty. This is certainly not easy work. Reaching agreements and commitments on disarmament, democracy, human rights, military maneuvers, foreign military bases and advisers, subversion, and terrorism -- issues that are linked to national sovereignty -- demands determination and responsibility. Along with the discussion of the document, we promoted contacts to maintain a climate of detente and the prevention of the military confrontations.

In this vast task that we advocate and carry out in both the international and national arenas, we have been strongly supported by the international community. The 159 member-nations of the United Nations expressed their solidarity with the Contadora Group, which is the joint effort of Colombia, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela. The 31 OAS member-countries unanimously expressed the same solidarity in Brasilia. The 10 countries of the EEC and Spain and Portugal have expressed this not only verbally, but also with actions in the meeting of Central American countries with the EEC and the Contadora countries in October in Costa Rica.

The truth is that every world event affects us in one way or another. We are obviously affected by those that occur in our hemisphere and in one of the most important geopolitical areas like the Caribbean Sea where our territory extends due to the Law of the Sea. To think that we can guarantee our own peace and development isolated from the Latin American reality is just a vain illusion.

The burning conflicts of our times, the confrontations between the superpowers, and the North-South and East-West conflicts are part of our daily reality and have an influence on our behavior as a nation.

Colombia has become a banner for peace. Important meetings among countries have been held here. Meetings have been held here of forces from friendly nations that find in our country a climate for their dialogues and understandings. Such was the case of Guatemala and Spain. Our mediation and good offices have been requested several times and we have not spared any efforts when we think they can be useful to achieving consensus, such as that which will occur between Bolivia and Chile.

The struggle against crime and the organized mafias has also had deep international repercussions. The world community has become aware of the dangers that a human being faces if drug trafficking corners and perverts him. This battle now has the support of international organizations. This crime has been declared to be an international crime as a result of the meeting we held with five presidents in Quito. A bill is going through the legislative chambers to provide a modern framework to combat this action of violence and immorality that has already claimed so many victims, including the unforgettable minister and senator, our dear friend, Rodrigo Lara Bonilla.

In the OAS we have also become promoters of curbing the growing arms buildup. By eating up the public budgets in that rush toward the abyss, the arms buildup not only affects our economies and halts social progress, but also encourages confrontations between brother countries. Once again, what we advocate as useful for our Central American brothers we also consider good for the entire Latin American hemisphere.

We have confirmed that our regional organization, the OAS, needs to be strengthened. In a resolution that was unamiously approved in Brasilia, we proposed the holding of a special OAS assembly session to deal with its essential revitalization. That meeting, together with its ordinary assembly, will be held in Cartagena de Indias at the end of 1985. This will be a recognition of Colombia. We hope that all of the processes being undertaken in that direction will successfully conclude with a better life for the most important universal and pluralistic American forum with a heterogenous reality that can exist simply on the basis of civilized understanding. We have buried that old adage that says that if you want peace, prepare for war. Analytically and rationally, we deeply know that if we want peace we must prepare ourselves for it spiritually and materially.

In my report to Congress I explained how the initial rapprochement with the guerrilla groups culminated. I reiterated that we would be kind because we were and are backed by fortitude. The dialogue requested by the groups -- the 19 April Movement [M-19], the Popular Liberation Army [EPL], and Workers Self-Defense [ADO], and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC] has been successful within the legal limits. It has received the generous help of politicians and legislator. The Verification Commission was installed and the FARC fulfilled the step from the cease-fire to the truce, which went into effect on 1 December.

As the process advances with sure and justified benefits for many regions, we have increased our alertness and instructions to distinguish what must be distinguished. I have not tired of reiterating that the political space demanded by the groups of goodwill will be granted to them as to all citizens, with the precise rights that the law grants but also with their related responsibilities, duties, and limitations.

Senators, let us briefly pause in the consideration of these topics that are so deeply felt in the national soul. Apart from the human and economic costs of the struggle, the armed subversion against the institutional order entails two grave dangers: first, that it could win; second, that the state and society might become deformed as a result of the efforts to suppress it.

In my view, the position of a state in the face of subversion can be defined as a position of pacification and not of repression. This obviously does not mean that violent actions must not be repelled by the state. Of course, they must be rejected with all the mechanisms of coercion that the state has. However, at the same time their causes must be prevented and their agents must be deterred. In other words, subversion must be made impossible because it has no pretexts.

Honorable Senators, we must bear in mind what I said previously. Although subversive movements support themselves on social and economic discontent, they are not sufficiently explained by them. In other words, their essence is not economic but political. We must not look for their origin only in economic factors, but also in conditions that depend on politics and ideology.

As I said, conditions are even worse when the dissatisfied feel that their political space is cut off, that the normal path toward progress is blocked, and that they cannot voice their dissent.

Against the subersive germs... [changes remark] The main cause of subversion is that those in poverty consider the existing political space indifferent to their destiny and an area in which all paths are closed to them. In my opinion, if this occurs, the only rational solution to the subversive germs caused by poverty, when those affected are desperately seeking legal mechanisms to change their situation, is to engage in a pacification process that will broaden political space, favor the disclosure of social problems, and open new channels for the expression of popular aspirations. The people's main problems are not discovered through investigations carried out by sociologists, even though they are helpful. The problems must surface through the vivid and direct manifestation of those who are confronting them. The expression of popular aspirations is the state's normal channel to learn about the people's woes, and to gather the necessary strength to overcome them.

Honorable Senators, in this manner the political space becomes the scenario not only of a national dialogue, but of a true concert in which all the voices of society can be heard. This is what a peace policy should be, in opposition to the actions of war and violence. Only a state that embraces a peace policy such as the one we endorse will be able to disarm the violent without becoming a violent state.

The National Front enabled the country to face a [word indistinct] violent confrontation. Now that the bloodshed is the result of reasons apart from Liberal-Conservative differences, it is necessary to implement the therapy of opening space, of guaranteeing for all the access to the channels of democratic expression, of allowing the organization of the various tendencies and ideologies, and of giving everyone the opportunity to be elected by the people, as the honorable National Congress has done by approving the popular election of mayors.

Of course, all of this must be accomplished on the basis of respect for the law and peace for all; not only for those who were up in arms, but also peace for those who have demanded their rights peacefully. The search for public peace should not justify coercion or threats, as this would deny the desire for peace. Naturally, the use of violence as a political tool should be condemned, whether we are referring to Colombians or foreigners, and its promoters should be condemned and punished within our constitutional laws, because peace should be for all or it will not be peace.

Mr President of the honorable Senate of the Republic, Vice President, and Honorable Senators, we have faith in our democracy, expressed through this sovereign body that deliberates, dissents, makes commitments, and is a preamble for a more intensive and pluralistic coexistence of our citizens, necessary to reach our destiny and develop our possibilities.

Our duty is to bring the government and the community closer, so that the government can funnel the people's energies to their maximum capacity; our task is to perfect the balance of power enshrined by our Constitution, so that controversy will not lead to anarchy, violence, or authoritarianism. Bills drafted by both the government and Congress, filtered by criticisms and improved through the imagination typical of times of change, have begun their transit, Honorable Senators, through this legislature. In many cases the time has not been proportionate to the magnitude and extension of the tasks that the honorable senators and representatives have undertaken with great diligence. As proposed by representatives of the political parties, I intend to convoke special sessions by mid-January 1985. I am sure that during those special sessions you will correctly complete the work initiated by this legislature.

GUERRILLA LEADERS ACCUSE ARMY OF HARASSMEN

PA171708 Paris AFP in Spanish 1440 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] Bogota, 17 Dec (AFP) -- It was said here today that the clashes that took place this past week in the southwestern Colombian Department of Cauca between the M-19 guerrillas and the Army represent a clear "violation" of the truce agreed on by the rebel group and the government.

Carlos Pizarro, the third most important leader of the M-19 and commander of the M-19 column in Cauca, as well as Antonio Navarro, the movement's official spokesman, have characterized the clashes, which have been going on for the past 4 days, as a break in the cease-fire agreement. The guerrilla leaders charged that the Army has been carrying out harassment operations in the area and this has resulted in the clashes that apparently have produced wounded on both sides.

Members of the Verification Commission for compliance with the truce agreement are already in the region checking on the possibility that there has been a violation of the cease-fire agreement. They are studying the charges filed by the M-19, which accuses the Army of surrounding the guerrillas, who have been camping in that area for the past 3 months.

Acting Defense Minister General Miguel Vega Uribe has rejected the M-19 charges and has explained that the Army is in that area to carry out anticriminal operations aimed at finding two kidnapped ranchers who are in the area, according to evidence possessed by the Army. Vega Uribe said that the troops will remain in the region.

General Vega Responds

PA172212 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1939 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] Bogota, 17 Dec (EFE) -- General Miguel Vega Uribe, acting Colombian defense minister, asserted here today that the M-19 has set up an independent republic in the north area of Cauca Department. Referring to the situation brought about by the M-19 in the country's western area, Gen Vega said: "The government cannot allow the creation of independent republics on Colombian territory." He added that the guerrilla movement, which signed a cease-fire with the government on 24 August, has organized its guerrillas in the area of Corinto municipality, where the agreement was signed, and mined the roads. The acting minister went on to add that the Colombian Army has deactivated 83 mines in the region, while 3 others had exploded. Commenting on the clashes that occurred in the region, Gen Vega said: "The Army has been extremely patient, but it cannot permit outrages such as mined roads and fortresses." The M-19 has said that the Armed Forces "violate the truce and harass M-19 members," and charged that the Army deployed 7,000 men and tanks and helicopters to Corinto, a community of 12,000 people. M-19 leader Carlos Pizarro Leon-Gomez has asked that the Verification Commission consider the situation in the Corinto area. The commission traveled to the location but it has not yet reported its findings because both the Army and the M-19 have reported cease-fire violations by the other side.

GROUPS IN CONGRESS REACH ACCORD, SIGN AGREEMENT

PA171315 Quito Voz de Los Andes in Spanish 2330 GMT 14 Dec 84

[Monitored in progress]

[Text] ...Signed by the main leaders and heads of congressional blocs during a momentous ceremony at the office of National Congress President Raul Baca Carbo, who presided over the ceremony. Reviewing some of the basic points of the documents, Baca told reporters:

[Begin recording] We sincerely believe that this effort is fully justified in view of what the judicial situation in our country has been up to this moment. Undoubtedly, the situation involved matters of principle, but it also represented a real deterioration in justice.

In this respect, the agreement entails the possibility of generating judicial action in full and a National Congress capable of responding to our major national and popular interests through the discussion of laws without the confrontations that lead us nowhere.

I think the Ecuadoran people will be able to see the effects of this accord in a very short time, more because of the consequences of this accord than for the words read here. The purpose of this accord is so that the state structures can be completed, so that all organizations indicated in the [word indistinct] can be made a part of the national life once and for all, so that these organizations will point the democratic way for the country and remove any and all proposals alien to the constitutional order, and so that these organizations will carry out state functions and give our people real solutions, just as we have been promising throughout many political campaigns.

For this reason, I am pleased to stress the announcement made by the Supreme Court of Justice elected by the National Congress. The court members, having submitted their resignations to the Congress to be considered, have expedited a possible compromise. I want to especially thank them for their action on behalf of the National Congress, and also other [words indistinct] that will be announced during the special Congress session convoked especially for this purpose by the Congress president.

In addition, this agreement includes the convocation of a new congress. This will take place at the conclusion of the Congress that is currently considering the legislative branch's organic law. This congress has been convoked by the president. In accordance with what we will hand over to you, we hope that the new convocation will be considered and analyzed by the National Congress next Wednesday. It is a pleasure for me to report that the accords reached at the National Congress and signed by the representatives of the various political parties are included in the following declaration:

Considering the current political and juridical situation in the country, the parliamentary groups in the National Congress announce to the public:

1. We hereby proclaim strict respect for the Constitution and state institutions.

2. We stress our firm determination to defend the democratic system as the only legitimate means for the country's normal operation.

3. We reaffirm our determination to strengthen the normal operation of each of the state organizations without any internal interference and in accordance with the Constitution.

4. We recognize the urgent need to constitutionally integrate the state's institutions, and efforts to achieve this will be implemented immediately.

5. The parliamentary groups hereby confirm their willingness and determination to strengthen the Republic's organizations as sponsors of the nation's social and economic development.

This constitutionalist pronouncement, which respects the ideological, and political differences that characterize each parliamentary group, is for the purpose of attaining public peace and strengthening the constitutional and democratic system. [end recording]

This has been a declaration read by National Congress President Raul Baca Carbo, which included the agreement reached by parliamentary groups in the National Congress through their various representatives. In the agreement, the groups reaffirm their determination to strengthen the normal operation of each of the state organizations. In addition, the groups recognize the urgent need to constitutionally integrate the state organizations and pledge to immediately direct their utmost efforts toward accomplishing this task.

The signing of the agreement by each and every leader of the 12 parliamentary groups in the National Congress is the most important event of the past 3 months. The dramatic political and juridical problem that the country has been suffering -- namely, the conflict between the branches -- has ended as of today.

BRIEFS

FORMER DEFENSE MINISTER DIES -- Quito, 11 Dec (EFE) -- General Jorge Maldonado Mino, retired, who served as Ecuador's defense minister from 1982 to 1983, died on Sunday in a helicopter crash. [Summary] [Madrid EFE in Spanish 0037 GMT 12 Dec 84 PA]

NEW AMBASSADORS APPOINTED -- Through an executive decree, President Leon Febres Cordero has appointed new ambassadors. He appointed Ivan Pena Herrera as Ecuador's permanent representative to all meetings held by the United Nations in Vienna. He also appointed Jorge Lasso as the new ambassador to Costa Rica. [Summary] [Quito Voz de los Andres in Spanish 1130 GMT 7 Dec 84 PA]

AMBASSADOR TO ARGENTINA CLAIMS HARASSMENT

PY172156 Paris AFP in Spanish 2003 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 Dec (AFP) -- Paraguayan Ambassador to Argentina Luis Gonzalez Arias today told AFP that people in Buenos Aires opposed to General Alfredo Stroessner's government are repeatedly harassing embassy staffers and threatening them with death.

We are being threatened with death, they are throwing rocks at us, they are painting slogans on our walls, and they are continuously harassing us, the ambassador stated.

According to the ambassador, we have received many threats from those groups that take advantage of Argentine democracy and fall into libertinism and abuses. But, nevertheless, they do not scare us.

Gonzalez Arias agreed with Argentine Ambassador to Paraquay Raul Quijano that relations between the two countries are still very good despite the fact that small groups are trying to disrupt them. As far as we are concerned, contact with the government of President Alfonsin is normal and frequent.

MOPOCO MEMBER REPORTEDLY ARRESTED IN ASUNCION

PY171425 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1625 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Dec (DYN) -- The Paraguayan Colorado Popular Movement (Mopoco) charged here today that a Mopoco leader was "arbitrarily and illegitimately" arrested on 15 December by the police in the vicinity of the Asuncion bus terminal.

In a communique signed by Secretaries Mario Paredes and Edgar Jimenez Mesa, the Mopoco explained that Teodoro Benitez was arrested "during a conspicuous police operation" at the corner of 25 May and Antequera Streets in Asuncion.

The communique reports that "fellow party member Benitez had gone to the house where Mopoco leaders Waldino Ramon Lovera and Antonio Gonzalez Prieto were staying. The two leaders were about to leave for Buenos Aires."

The communique adds that when Benitez and other Mopoco members left the Asuncion bus terminal after saying good-bye to Lovera and Gonzalez Prieto, "they were surrounded by many policemen who claimed that Inspector Alberto Cantero, the chief of the political section of the Asuncion police investigations department, had ordered Benitez' arrest."

The communique stresses that "this action once again reveals the characteristics of Alfredo Stroessner's autocratic regime, which has oppressed the Paraguayan people for three decades."

Finally, the Mopoco called for international solidarity "to have Mr Teodoro Benitez released soon."

GOVERNMENT ISSUES INVITATION TO AMERICAS WATCH

PY172152 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0300 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Text] Lima, 14 Dec (EFE) -- It was reported today in Lima that the Peruvian Government has invited representatives of the Americas Watch, an organization that has accused the government of violating human rights, to come to the country to be briefed on the real situation. Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Luis Percovich Roca made this announcement at a press conference after a Council of Ministers meeting, during which he reported that the Foreign Ministry has received a copy of the report published in New York by the Americas Watch at the end of October. The report issued by the Americas Watch, which promotes respect for human rights, states that the Peruvian Government is confronting terror with terror. The prime minister stated that the document does not mention any specific case, but that it is a general 100-page report. We have invited representatives of the organization to visit so we can explain the real situation of violence to them. When they visit, we will be pleased to talk to them so that they can deal with the subject in light of the real situation, Percovich stated. He added that if some human rights violations have taken place, the culprits are in the hands of the judicial branch.

TERRORIST ACTIONS IN NORTHERN AYACUCHO REPORTED

PY171420 Paris AFP in Spanish 1553 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] Lima, 16 Dec (AFP) -- Guerrilla activities have decreased in urban areas of Ayacucho, which is the focus of violence, but some 30 members of the peasant self-defense patrols were killed and several hamlets were attacked by Shining Path commandos this past week. Police sources reported this in Lima today. On the night of 15 December, subversives simultaneously attacked two police stations: one in Mala, 75 km south of Lima, and the other in Cabana in Ayacucho Department. The attacks resulted in only material damage, according to initial reports.

On 12 December, a column of the so-called self-defense patrols clashed with terrorists near the hamlet of Sacachupe, La Mar Province, Ayacucho Department, resulting in the death of 30 peasants armed with machetes, slings, and clubs who were no match for the terrorists with their submachine guns and automatic rifles, according to reports by the wounded who were evacuated from that zone. Meanwhile, peasants coming from remote localities in the forest zone north of Ayacucho have reported that seditious groups en route to Cuzco, 1,000 km southeast of Lima, had looted the hamlets that had no police protection, and on Wednesday, 12 December, dynamited the Chuhua bridge, north of Ayacucho, thus blocking traffic in the region.

The police report says that the attack on the Mala police station by hooded terrorists armed with submachine guns and dynamite sticks took place the night of 15 December at 1915 and that it was repelled by police personnel who routed the terrorists after a gunfight that lasted several minutes. At about the same time, another guerrilla commando unit, whose members wore hoods, attacked the La Cabana police station, firing submachine guns and hurling dynamite sticks. The first brief reports on the two attacks did not mention casualties on either side, only damage to the police buildings.

Meantime, timely police intervention in the early hours of Saturday, 15 December, prevented the dynamiting of a railroad car loaded with mineral ore at the railroad station at Chosica, 40 km southeast of Lima. Alerted by a phone call, the police started a search and found a powerful dynamite charge about to explode. The police indicated that had the dynamite charge gone off, casualties and serious damage might have occurred in nearby houses.

PARAGUAYAN FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES FOR MEETING

PY151231 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2053 GMT 14 Dec 84

[Text] Montevideo, 14 Dec (EFE) -- Paraguan Foreign Minister Carlos Augusto Saldivar today arrived in Montevideo, where he was welcomed by his Uruguayan counterpart, Carlos Alberto Maeso. Starting on Monday, Saldivar will participate in the meeting of the foreign ministers of the River Plate Basin countries that will be held in Punta del Este, 147 km east of Montevideo. The Paraguayan chief diplomat arrived on board a private plane because there have been no regular passenger flights between Asuncion and Montevideo for 2 months now due to a conflict between the state-owned airlines of the two countries.

Reliable sources have told EFE that Foreign Ministers Maeso and Saldivar will study this problem which the two countries are facing because of the loss of passenger air services. Uruguayan aeronautics authorities are punishing the Paraguayan Airlines Company for failing to fulfill international agreements on the sale of long-distance fares. The Paraguayan authorities reacted by suspending the Uruguayan company's permit to operate in Asuncion. Due to this conflict, the two capitals have no direct air services and travelers must make connections at Argentine airports.

IMF CALLS OFF NEGOTIATIONS ON STAND-BY LOAN

PY171244 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2346 GMT 10 Dec 84

[Text] Montevideo, 16 Dec (EFE) -- The newspaper EL PAIS reported today that the IMF has called off further negotiations on a $400-million stand-by loan which had been contracted with the Uruguayan military regime in 1983. However, the newspaper notes, the IMF is willing to talk with the government of President-elect Julio Maria Sanguinetti, which will take office in March 1985. Of the $400-million loan that had been negotiated, the government has received only $100 million.

EL PAIS reports that the IMF has suspended the disbursement of new installments on the $400-million loan negotiated in 1983. When the IMF negotiates with Sanguinetti, the terms for economic adjustment agreed on with the military government will be disregarded and new terms will be negotiated.

The IMF found that the Uruguayan economy performed better in November than at mid-year, but did not come close to the targets that were agreed on with the IMF in April 1983. The IMF thus considers that the situation is irreversible and that Uruguay has failed to comply with the agreement, which must therefore be canceled. The military government had committed itself to paring the fiscal deficit, maintaining a given level of foreign reserves, and keeping the increase of prices and salaries at a rate that would not generate runaway inflation.

ARMY COMMANDER ON ELECTIONS, MILITARY'S ROLE

PY172012 Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 11 Dec 84 p 1

[Text] We are very proud today to be able to say that despite the rumors, which were malicious at times, and despite all obstacles, we have throughly fulfilled our commitment." This statement was made by Army Commander General Hugo Medina with regard to the commitment to hold general elections after the 1980 plebiscite. The Army commander was delivering a speech honoring officers who retired this year. He also said that "now that the country is in the last stage of the reinstitutionalization, I would like to reiterate what I said when I became Army commander: I long for a nation confident of its Army, an Army confident of its mission, an apolitical Army, basically professional, with a solid doctrine and a single objective: to serve Uruguay."

INFORMATION MINISTER, OTHER OFFICIALS DISMISSED

PA172331 Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish 2110 GMT 17 Dec 84

[By Elio Rojas]

[Text] This is a bulletin from the Presidency of the Republic Information Office issued on 17 December 1984.

According to an authorized Miraflores Palace spokesman, President Jaime Lusinchi today asked for the resignation of four top government officials who failed to take the proper measures to broadcast, according to tradition, the network transmission of the events held today, 17 December, at the National Pantheon to mark the anniversary of the death of liberator Simon Bolivar, and the solemn ceremony held in memory of the founder of our fatherland.

The top government officials whose resignations were requested by the president of the Republic are: Armando Duran, information and tourism minister; Pedro Francisco Lizardo, president of television's Channel 8; Pedro Mogna, Information and Tourism Ministry director general; and Alberto Denanton, Interior Ministry protocol and historical [word indistinct] director. In another official communique the government announced that Ignacio Iribarren Borges has been appointed as the new information and tourism minister to replace Armando Duran, and that Clemente Cohen has been appointed new director general of the Information and Tourism Ministry to replace Pedro Mogna.

It was also learned that Development Minister Hector Hurtado and Carlos Rafael Silva, president of the Venezuelan Investment Fund, requested the resignation of the director of the Enelbar Energy Company of Barquisimeto and also of the director of the Rio Turbio energy plant. Both were accused of using an intermediary to illegally obtain preferential dollars on the Differential Exchange System. The Enelbar Energy Company and Rio Turbio energy plant are state enterprises.

PROTEST NOTE ISSUED ON COLOMBIAN INCURSION

PA171604 Paris AFP in Spanish 1522 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] Caracas, 17 Dec (AFP) -- At 1410 GMT today, Venezuelan Foreign Minister Isidro Morales Paul delivered a Venezuelan protest note to Colombian Ambassador Alberto Zalamea over the incursion of three Colombian helicopters and 20 troops into Venezuelan territory on Thursday, 13 December.

According to reports from Caracas, the incident took place at approximately 2100 GMT at Castilletes, located 500 km northwest of Caracas on a small Venezuelan bay on the Guajira Peninsula, where the northern border of the two countries begins.

The Colombian ambassador told AFP unofficially that the craft erroneously entered Venezuelan territory while it was pursuing drug traffickers in the course of a sweeping antidrug operation.

Venezuela and Colombia are still have not resolved the delimitation of their marine and submarine areas off the Guajira Peninsula, the site of Thursday's incident.

Further Report

PA172157 Paris AFP in Spanish 1824 GMT 17 Dec 84

[By Jorge Calmet Wagner]

[Text] Caracas, 17 Dec (AFP) -- Venezuela and Colombia may sign an agreement to fight drug trafficking on their borders following an incident on Thursday in which 3 helicopters and some 20 Colombian policemen entered Venezuelan territory, it was officially reported here today. According to initial explanations from Bogota, the three aircraft and their crews, composed of members of Colombia's National Police, were engaged in a sweeping antidrug operation that ended spectacularly with the seizure of 1,043 kg of cocaine and 9,980 kg of marijuana. This report was submitted to Caracas by Colombian Ambassador Alberto Zalamea after receiving an official Venezuelan protest note from Foreign Minister Isidro Morales Paul.

The Venezuelan Foreign Affairs Ministry reported that the incident took place Thursday at 2100 GMT at Castilletes, 500 km northwest of Caracas in a small Venezuelan bay at Guajira Peninsula, on the border between the two countries. The delimitation of the surface and subsurface sea areas of the two countries off Guajira Peninsula is still pending.

Ambassador Zalamea explained that the two helicopters were on a mission between Punta Gallinas and Castilletes when they flew across the border and landed on a small airstrip which is under construction by the local Venezuelan agency of the Zulia Development Corporation. He added that the helicopters' occupants questioned the Venezuelan personnel there, but returned to Colombian territory when they learned that they were on Venezuelan territory. "These aircraft belong to the police, who are not quite familiar with the area," Zalamea said.

The greatest source of rancor over the incident in Venezuela is the fact that the Colombian police questioned the Venezuelan personnel at the airport for approximately 20 minutes. "There will be an investigation of this. We never intended to go across the border," the diplomat asserted. He said he hoped the incident does not affect relations between Bogota and Caracas and, on the contrary, yields positive results such as the signing of an agreement to fight drug trafficking that "will spell out the rules on pursuing criminals in border areas."

The Venezuelan and Colombian Armed Forces coordinate their operations in the fight against drug trafficking and other crimes along their long land borders. However, this is the first time that an incident like that on Thursday has occurred, particularly in the Gulf of Guajira. Venezuelan Foreign Minister Morales Paul also voiced the hope that such an agreement would be signed. "It would be welcome because it would help prevent future incidents like this and would permit more direct cooperation between the two governments," he stated.

"We are not characterizing the incident in any way. This is an action that has elicited a reaction from the Venezuelan Government, but we must look at it calmly because errors can very well happen and that is why we have asked for an investigation," he said. "We cannot jump to conclusions or blow this incident out of proportion. We will look at it calmly and wait for the results of the investigation that will be carried out, as well as the report that must be presented to the Venezuelan Government." He said, however, that the Venezuelan protest "is not disproportionate," because this incident involved 3 helicopters and 20 policemen who spent approximately 20 minutes in Venezuelan territory, even though Venezuelan officials repeatedly told them that they were on our territory.

DEFENSE FORCES PRAISE TORRIJOS ON LOYALTY DAY

PA172209 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 15 Dec 84 p 8 A

[Message issued by Defense Forces of Panama -- date not given]

[Text] Loyalty Day is commemorated on 16 December because 15 years ago the Defense Forces of Panama, called the National Guard at the time, supported with loyalty and courage the return of General Omar Torrijos Herrera, commander of the National Guard and leader of the process that began on 11 October 1968, who later became head of government of the Republic of Panama.

The date 16 December is a landmark in the history of our armed forces institution because it was a time when the principle of "unyielding, priceless, and unquestionable loyalty" became fully effective and the military institution merged with the Panamanian people in giving a grand welcome to the man who, overcoming danger, disloyalty, and division, was able to return at the very time that the homeland and the National Guard required his presence, guidance, and direction.

On this date, we movingly invoke the memory of our eternal leader, extolling his virtues and expressing our faith in the major national objectives of independence, development, and tolerance which he upheld. We stress the exemplary behavior of the members of the Defense Forces who, on that date showed the quality, discipline, and social conscience that are the essential characteristics of the armed forces institution that defends our Republic and watches over the security, honor, and property of our citizens. Comrades in arms, let this 16 December shine, as in the past, as a beacon of the unity and loyalty that have made the Defense Forces an exemplary institution that constitutes a guarantee of the democratic and peaceful development of our Panamanian nation.

[Signed] General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief
Colonel Roberto Diaz Herrera, chief of the General Staff
Colonel Angel Mina Justiniani, G-1 of the General Staff
Lieutenant Colonel Elias Castillo F., G-3 of the General Staff
Lieutenant Colonel Leonidas Macias, chief, Police Forces
Lieutenant Colonel Eros Ramiro Cal, chief, General Administrative Services
Lieutenant Colonel Lorenzo Purcell, commander, Panamanian Air Force
Colonel Marcos Justine F., deputy chief and G-4 of the General Staff
Lieutenant Colonel Julio Ow Young, G-2 of the General Staff
Lieutenant Colonel Alberto Purcell, G-2 of the General Staff
Lieutenant Colonel Bernardo Barrera, chief, Defense and Security Commission
Lieutenant Colonel Rogelio Alba, director, Department of Renewable Natural Resources
Lieutenant Colonel Ricardo Garibaldo, director, General Jose Domingo Espinar Training Center
Lieutenant Colonel Eugenio Corro, supervisor of military zones

NORIEGA DISCUSSES MILITARY'S ROLE IN DEVELOPMENT

PA161320 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1750 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Speech by General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Defense Forces, during a ceremony presenting military engineering equipment to be used for road construction in Sona, District of Sona, Veraguas Department -- live)

[Text] To all my friends, the authorities present, and the people of Sona:

We have come to present the community with its instruments for work. The technical aspect of the plan has already been described by Colonel Purcell [Lieutenant Colonel Alberto Purcell, G-5 of General Staff] and by Mr Espino [Daniel Espino, director, General Directorate of Community Development -- Digedecom]. All that remains to be added to today's work is the philosophical aspect.

These trucks, this machinery, these men in uniform, do not represent what we see on television about other brother countries such as San Salvador [as heard] and Nicaragua, but rather positive actions in which the soldiers of the Panamanian National Defense Forces come to a town to work with its people. They come to a town to develop its production capacity. They come to a town that is difficult to reach, where it is hard to bring in materials from the central government. Our contribution, instead of staying in our headquarters and holding training exercises, is to come to these towns to be with the people and to develop production.

Gentlemen, all these things we have seen here in Sona, far from the capital city and without seeing them through the communications media of the capital city, have great importance because we can truly see what the people want. They want development without violence, peace, tranquillity, and the satisfaction of providing a future for their children. All this within the framework of democracy.

Gentlemen, let us protect the democracy. Democracy is like a spool of thread, which, once unraveled, cannot be rewound to its original state.

Gentlemen, let us maintain peace among ourselves, because peace is also a rare, exotic, and difficult flower that once dried up will not bloom again. Gentlemen, let us walk in this Christian peace, without violence. Let us resolve our problems with dialogue and know that the National Defense Forces can produce but can also stop anyone who may try to rob us of our peace and introduce violence in this territory.

Thank you. [applause]

BELIZE

ESQUIVEL SWORN IN, DESIGNATES 11-MEMBER CABINET

FL172310 Bridgetown CANA in English 2241 GMT 17 Dec 84

[By Norris Hall]

[Text] Belmopan, Belize, Dec 17, CANA -- The new United Democratic Party (UDP) government moved swiftly into action today after being sworn in this morning. Prime Minister Manuel Esquivel and his 11-member cabinet were holding a post-lunch closed door meeting with government permanent secretaries following the swearing-in by Governor-General Dame Minita Gordon.

Esquivel said the first session of the new House of Representatives will be held on Friday. Gordon will deliver the traditional throne speech at which she will outline the priorities of the UDP government which won last Friday's general elections.

The new prime minister, who has pledged to open his country to foreign investment and to reinforce ties with the Caribbean Community (Caricom), has appointed himself minister of finance and defence, the same portfolios held by defeated Prime Minister George Price.

Price, who lost his seat, and his People's United Party (PUP) dominated politics in this Central American state for 30 years. The PUP gained just seven of the 28 seats, the others going to the UDP.

Former opposition leader Curl Thompson has been appointed deputy prime minister and minister of home affairs, while another former leader of the UDP, Dena Lindo is minister of natural resources. Derik Aikman, whose upset win over Price stunned the nation, has been rewarded with the Ministry of Tourism, Transport, Education, and Youth. The minister of foreign affairs and economic development is Dan Barrow.

PUP sources said former Minister of Natural Resources Florencio Marin will be the new leader of the opposition. The members of the Senate, who will be present for Friday's throne speech will be announced on Wednesday.

Views Dispute With Guatemala

PA170432 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0122 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] Belize, 15 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- Manuel Esquivel, the new conservative prime minister of Belize, has said that "the bases of understanding" that former Prime Minister George Price had proposed to solve the dispute with Guatemala are no longer valid.

"The dialogue with Guatemala must start from zero, after that country recognizes the independence of Belize and that the most we are willing to concede is a Guatemalan outlet to the Caribbean without, however, control over the territorial waters," Esquivel told ACAN-EFE.

Guatemala considers Belize as part of its territory and has not recognized it as an independent state, although Belize obtained its independence form Great Britain 3 years ago. Price had designed some "bases of understanding" with Guatemala which he canceled when Guatemala did not recognize Belize's independence.

The bases included an outlet to the Caribbean and several rights for the use of Belizean territory by Guatemala.

"We are seeking a continuation of the negotiating process with Guatemala...but with the overriding principle that Guatemala accept Belize's sovereignty," states the platform of the United Democratic Party headed by Esquivel that won a landslide victory over Price's People's United Party in last Friday's elections.

On Ties With U.S., UK

PA171845 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1234 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Excerpts] Belize, 16 Dec (DPA) -- The prime minister-elect of Belize, Manuel Esquivel, has promised to open the doors of his sparsely populated country to foreign investors, and has asked for the establishment of close economic ties with the United States.

"We will create a very aggressive policy in the search for foreign investment," Esquivel declared in the first press conference held since his conservative United Democratic Party scored a smashing electoral victory here Friday, in the first elections held since Belize b came independent from Great Britain in 1981.

After the former British Honduras became an independent state on 21 September 1981, Great Britain left an 18,000-men military garrison there to discourage the Guatemalan Government from sending troops across the border to force a solution to the 100-year-old territorial dispute. "Nothing obviates the need for the British military garrison," Esquivel declared at the press conference last night. "We shall do everything in our power to make sure they stay here," he noted.

The UDP leaders have suggested that Esquivel, 44, a former physics professor intends to strengthen the bonds between his country and the United States, thus risking involvement in the conflicts affecting Central America. However, Esquivel pointed out that he considers the relations between Belize and the United States, the dominant power in Central America, to rest basically on economic relations.

When Great Britain gave Belize its independence, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher promised that the British troops would remain there for "an appropriate period of time," a statement that implied that possibility of an eventual withdrawal. Esquivel said that he intends to obtain a more specific definition from London on the issue, although he emphasized that it would not satisfy him for U.S. troops to replace British forces.

The UDP leaders have insisted that a U.S. military presence here would inevitably involve Belize in the problems of the region, which for the past 7 years has been the scene of civil wars. Esquivel said that if the British troops were to leave, "all we would do is to try to obtain from the United States a statement to the effect that it would not permit Guatemalan aggression against Belize."

The designated need of government voiced his support for "personal, social, and commercial contacts" with Guatemala, indicating that it would facilitate political solutions to the differences with Guatemala, which has been forced to recognize Belize as an independent nation.

According to estimates from various Western diplomatic circles, marijuana production [in Belize] has reached the same level as that of sugar as a principal export product, and the police have reported that the drug plantation owners' have begun to purchase automatic weapons to protect their fields.

"The situation created by the drug is quite serious, extremely serious," Esquivel said, and added that his government will take quick action to stop that flourishing illegal business. "The law must be enforced wherever it has been broken," he emphasized.

Comments on Foreign Policy

FL171227 Bridgetown CANA in English 0039 GMT 16 Dec 84

[By Norris Hall]

[Text] Belize City, Belize, Dec 15, CANA -- School teacher Manuel Esquivel, whose rightwing United Democratic Party (UDP) scored a shock 21-7 victory in Belize's general elections yesterday, says his government will pursue a nonaligned foreign policy, and will seek greater involvement in the Caribbean Community (Caricom). Esquivel, a 44-year-old physics major, commented to CANA today, hours after his UDP crushed veteran Prime Minister George Price's People's United Party (PUP) in the first general election here since this Central American state of 150,000 people gained its political independence from Britain three years ago.

With non-alignment, Esquivel said, his UDP would expect no difficulties having close relations with the United States. But the government will preserve its right to form our own opinions on matters of foreign affairs.

Esquivel, who took over leadership of the UDP in 1981 when the party booted out his predecessor Dr Theodore Aranda, said he would announce his cabinet on Monday. The administration, he said, would move rather rapidly in the direction of vigorously encouraging increased investment, and would cut the size of the bureacracy. There will be no deputy ministers in the reduced cabinet, Esquivel said.

On Caricom relations, Esquivel said Belize had a problem of being isolated from the rest of its community partners in terms of transportation and communication. But he added: We would like to seek greater participation by Belize in Caricom.

Price, who at age 65 lost his seat for the first time in 20 years, issued a brief statement this evening declaring he would not be quitting politics. Although he will no longer be in parliament, he said, he would work to regroup his party, which has dominated the political scene here since 1964. Price himself lost the Freetown constituency in Belize City to a 26-year-old newcomer, businessman and former airline office manager Derek Aikman. Price polled 570 votes to Aikman's 876.

Five other ministers lost their seats: Assad Shoman (health); Said Musa (education and economic development); Fred Hunter (works); Elijio Briceno (energy and communications); and Guadalupe Pech (trade and industry).

Six members of the Price administration retained their seats: His sister, Jane Usher, who was deputy health minister; Florencio Marin, natural resources minister; Louis Sylvestre, who held responsibility for local government; ex-Labour Minister David McKoy; Samuel Waight, former deputy works minister; and Valdemar Castillo, who was a deputy speaker of the House of Representatives. The six, along with PUP newcomer and lawyer Simeon Thompson, will now form the parliamentary opposition.

Electoral officials said the preliminary count showed that about 77.6 per cent of the 64,447 electorate voted. In the last poll in 1979 Price's PUP won 13 of the 18 parliamentary seats, the other five going to the UDP. Since then 10 more seats have been added to the House of Representatives.

The only other group in the race, the Christian Democratic Party which Aranda formed in 1982, fared badly, as did the three independents, who all lost their deposits.

VOA TO BUILD 200,000 KW STATION NEAR GUATEMALA

PA172347 Paris AFP in Spanish 2238 GMT 14 Dec 84

[Excerpt] Belize, 14 Dec (AFP) -- A U.S. VOA repeater station will be constructed in the near future in Belize, according to official sources. A bulletin from the Belizean Government's information service states that Foreign Minister Harrison Courtenay and former U.S. Ambassador to Belize Malcom Barnebey agreed on the establishment of the station, which will have 200,000 kw of power and broadcast to Central America.

It also states that the U.S. Government wil pay $500,000 for the use of the land where the station will be constructed in Toledo District, near Punta Gorda, southern Belize, on the border with Guatemala. The VOA is now also promoting the installation of a repeater station Costa Rica, on the border with Nicaragua, with sufficient power to broadcast to the rest of Central America.

EL SALVADOR

CHIEF OF STAFF BLANDON CRITICIZES FMLN TRUCE

PA172345 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 17 Dec 84 pp 3, 35

[Excerpt] Colonels Adolfo Blandon and Sigfrido Ochoa categorically rejected the FMLN-FDR terrorists' pretensions of imposing truces on the people and the Armed Forces. The two men made declarations to Salvadoran and foreign journalists last Saturday in La Palma in Chalatenango Department.

The military men said that the Armed Forces cannot be subjected to the will of those outside the law. Quite the contrary, the Armed Forces will continue to fight them until the terrorists either are wiped out or lay down their arms and return to normal life in society.

Col Blandon, chief of staff, said that all available resources have to be committed to reach peace and that all efforts made in this direction will be fruitful. He said that the Armed Forces are professional, disciplined, and obedient toward everything that is in agreement with the Constitution.

Col Blandon condemned the stance of terrorist groups who speak of dialogue and pacification while, at the first opportunity, hurling themselves against the people the guerrillas allegedly defend. Col Blandon also said that FMLN-FDR extremists proclaim vociferously everywhere that there is unemployment, that the prices of staples have shot up, that transportation is terrible, and that plants and businesses have been closing down.

Commenting on this, Col Blandon said: "The terrorists don't say that it is they who have destroyed bridges, plants, businesses, buses, and private and government vehicles. They have mined roads, abducted and murdered small and big businessmen, formed squads that murder anyone they believe can't be useful to them or who don't agree with their ideas, and so on".

Col Blandon stressed that the Armed Forces obey their superior officers, but they neither should nor could listen to appeals of those outside the law who threaten the nation's security by violating human rights and the most fundamental standards.

Col Blandon said that the truce announced by the FMLN-FDR terrorists is worthless except in their own propaganda plans and that the Armed Forces will obey the high command and no one else, thus enforcing the Constitution at all times.

Finally, Col Blandon asserted: "We don't have to abide by truces not coming from our superior officers. We are obedient and disciplined. We are willing to continue fulfilling the constitutional standards that urge us to comply with our military duties."

AREA COMMANDER MENDEZ SEES GUERRILLA FAILURE

PA180301 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 17 Dec 84 p 1

[Text] Colonel Miguel Antonio Mendez, chief of the 3d Military Zone based in San Miguel and commander of the entire eastern area, has said that, strategically speaking, the subversives have lost and are bound to be eliminated. It is only a matter of time. He added that if the Sandinists -- not the Nicaraguans -- do not change their stand and cease to support Salvadoran subversives morally, economically, and materially, it will be extremely difficult to have peace in our country again. Col Mendez said it is clear that the Sandinist regime is the destabilizing fact in the Central American region. In addition, had the Salvadoran terrorists not been brazenly supported by the Sandinists, the former would have been defeated a long time ago.

Col Mendez has asserted that the "big" guerrilla strategists made a great mistake through which the guerrilla movement lost all force. He said that the mistake of the rebel pseudostrategists was that, in their war of attrition against the Armed Forces and the government, they have carried out attacks during which innocent civilians were harmed the most.

Col Mendez has criticized the destruction of bridges because they serve as links between villages. Only the poor are harmed with these actions, because Army members are trained to cross rivers and gullies. Bridges are not vital for them. In addition, the Army has aircraft at its disposal.

Later he said that the terrorist leaders had surely repented their decision. The trouble is that, although they repent and try to stop these actions they will not be able to, because they don't have any control over their group of bandits and armed people that include prostitutes, murderers, criminals, and thieves.

Col Mendez asserted that, before guerrilla activities started in the country, there were thousands of common criminals who have now apparently disappeared. However, these criminals have not disappeared; they have been armed by the terrorists. Formerly a simple thief had a pistol; now he has a M-16 rifle. According to Col Mendez, the terrorist leaders themselves admit that their movement has been strategically defeated and is unable to defeat the Armed Forces. The guerrillas also failed in their efforts to make the people rise up against the government and the Armed Forces.

Mendez has admitted, however, that it will be difficult to put an end to terrorism because two or three men can continue commiting sabotage actions. "In other words, it is quite easy to be a terrorist," he said in conclusion.

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION HITS COPREFA CHARGES

PA172236 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1600 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] We have contacted the Salvadoran Human Rights Commission [CDHES] because we have learned that the commission has issued a communique regarding information released by the Armed Forces Press Committee [Coprefa]. We would rather have the commission read the communique for us.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified speaker] In view of the charges made by Coprefa, the CDHES, a nongovernmental organization, has this to say:

We have been forced to make a pronouncement on Coprefa's tendentious, ill-intentioned charges that were sent to the news media and released by ACAN-EFE on 14 December. The misinformation refers to some accords reached during the first congress on human rights.

We must say that these resolutions were discussed and taken by the commission members, as well as representatives of national and international organizations. All of them have taken into consideration the reality in which we Salvadorans live, rather than imaginary purposes because the nature of our work demands this realization. In previous declarations, Coprefa has tried to discredit all kinds of humanitarian activities. Summarizing, Coprefa has been creating an atmosphere just the opposite of what the Salvadoran people really want; namely, peace, justice, and liberty.

We are concerned over these charges because in this way Coprefa can try to justify any action taken by that organization. We hereby hold the Duarte government and his military system responsible for whatever happens to us. We also urge national and international public opinion to denounce any type of outrages against the CDHES and its members.

San Salvador, 5 December 1984

On behalf of the enforcement of human rights

[Signed] Salvadoran Human Rights Commission, Nongovernmental [end recording]

200 FAMILIES TO RESETTLE IN ARGENTINA

PA180305 Paris AFP in Spanish 0222 GMT 18 Dec 84

[Text] San Salvador, 17 Dec (AFP) -- The Salvadoran Foreign Ministry reported today that 200 Salvadoran families who have been displaced from their homes by the war will resettle in Argentina through an arrangement between the Salvadoran and Argentine Governments.

It has been reported that the plan -- called "Migration of Salvadoran Families to Argentina" -- could be completed by mid-1985.

The Salvadoran Government has gotten in touch with the ILO and the Intergovernmental Committee for International Migration [Comite Intergubernamental para las Migraciones Internacionales], who will help finance the plan. Initially the plan includes the resettling of 200 families comprising about 1,500 people in Salta and Jujuy Provinces. These families would be integrated into the Argentine rural population by allowing them to become owners of state property.

In addition, the resettled families will be given housing, financing, equipment, supplies, and technical assistance for 2 years, as well as food for the first year. The cost for this plan has been estimated at $39,000 per family. This cost will be defrayed by international organizations, according to a Foreign Ministry communique.

ANTICOMMUNIST BRIGADE SUPPORTS NEW COMMAND

PA171540 El Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 0025 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] The Maximiliano Hernandez Martinez Anticommunist Brigade has announced that it is resuming its struggle in order to support the Domingo Monterrosa Barrios Command.

The death squad that styles itself as Maximiliano Hernandez Martinez Anticommunist Brigade circulated a new communique today, Sunday, stating its support for the resurgence or birth of the Domingo Monterrosa Barrios Command, which was reported Friday. The brigade added that it supports the command's decision to eliminate the civilians who are encysted in the government, particularly the extreme left-wing elements and Army sectors that advocate Marxism-Leninism. At the same time, it endorsed the demand of the Domingo Monterrosa Barrios Command that the government and the Army explain and broadly investigate the death of Colonel Domingo Monterrosa Barrios and other senior military officers in the downing of the helicopter in Joateca, northern Morazan.

MILITARY BEGINS NEW COUNTERINSURGENCY OPERATION

PA171621 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0022 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] San Salvador, 15 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- Military sources have reported that special Salvadoran Armed Forces units began an extensive combing operation in the past few hours to locate guerrilla hideouts along the country's coast, particularly in the eastern region. The counterinsurgency action is taking place in the southern part of Usulutan, San Miguel and La Union Departments where, according to Army spokesmen, groups of rebels were found to be receiving weapons presumably sent from Nicaragua.

According to residents of the Salvadoran coastal region, the weapons had arrived in launches and were taken to El Salamo, Jucuaran jurisdiction, 130 km southeast of the capital; El Carrizal, in San Miguel Department; and Intipuca, in La Union Department. The military sources said that FMLN members are being pursued in the areas to which the weapons have been taken. Meanwhile, an Army officer said that the military will remain "vigilant" during the truce announced by the insurgents for the Christmas holidays.

FMLN REPORTS ANNIHILATION OF CEIIFA TROOPS

PA151747 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Text] Attention, close attention to the following military information: A new FMLN victory in San Vicente Department. FMLN units annihilated a 5th Infantry Brigade unit. Attention, close attention. Early this morning, 14 December, FMLN guerrilla units attacked troops of the puppet Army's 5th Infantry Brigade of the Training Center for Armed Forces Engineers, Ceiifa in Las Flores Canton, Guadalupe Jurisdiction, San Vicente Department. Radio Venceremos is waiting for more information, for a war bulletin, on the results of this victorious action by our revolutionary army in San Vicente Department.

This is the second overwhelming blow that our units in San Vicente Department, more specifically in the area of the Chichontepec Volcano, have dealt to the 5th Infantry Brigade. We recall that only a few days ago, in El Salto, our units annihilated the ill-named Nonualco Battalion and now, during this Friday's victorious campaign, they have annihilated troops of the Ceilfa's 5th Infantry Brigade in Las Flores canton, Guadalupe jurisdiction. We are waiting for more information from our companeros in the area of the Chichontepec Volcano.

According to radio stations in the capital city, military sources have admitted that the 5th Infantry Brigade suffered 25 dead and 12 wounded during this victory achieved by our revolutionary weapons.

Likewise, the same radio stations are reporting a damaged helicopter as a result of the fighting reported on the morning of 14 December. This victory achieved by our revolutionary army comes at the same time when Colonel Montano is making parrot-like statements to the local press. He has said that military operations are under way in the area of the Chichontepec Volcano aimed at protecting the property of the wealthy coffee growers. This is another defeat for the 5th Infantry Brigade and for blabber-mouth Colonel Montano.

Radio Venceremos will be bringing you further information regarding this victory achieved by our revolutionary army in San Vicente Department, by the Anastasio Aquino Paracentral Front, to whom we send our revolutionary greetings.

GUATEMALA

MEJIA, LOBO ZAMORA DISCUSS RETURN OF EXILES

PA161352 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 14 Dec 84 p 4

[Text] Generals Oscar Mejia Victores and Rodolfo Lobo Zamora, head of state and deputy head of state, respectively, today said that political violence originates with those who want to uphold communism. The fact that Guatemalans who have been away from the country for a long time have begun to return is seen as a good sign. They referred to the return of former Deputy Carlos Gallardo Flores.

Gallardo left Guatemala in 1980 when he was still a member of the Legislative Assembly because, it was learned, he had received death threats. At the time of his departure, Gallardo was a member of the Guatemalan Social Democratic Party founded by Dr Alberto Sanchez Mong. Sanchez was murdered during the government of General Lucas Garcia.

Mejia said yesterday that it would be good if all fellow Guatemalans living abroad for no reason whatsoever would return to join the efforts necessary for the nation's development.

Mejia said: Since we attained power on 8 August 1983, [words indistinct] a total and general political amnesty. Anyone living abroad has elected to do so. Perhaps they don't want to participate in Guatemala's development.

Will Gallardo be granted amnesty?

He has not been (?persecuted). He is a politician who went into exile perhaps for a very special reason but, as far as I understand, he has not been persecuted.

What kind of guarantees will he get when he returns to Guatemala?

He will enjoy the privileges common to all Guatemalans, who can rest assured that they can work and live in peace and carry out their activities.

Are other politicians in exile afraid?

There will always be fear in all circles, but we have to understand that political violence is originated by those groups that want to destroy the system to set up a communist system.

What happened in Costa Rica with Gallardo?

He and others who visited me said they wanted to return to Guatemala. I told them their right to live in the country would be guaranteed, as it presently is for all Guatemalans.

Flores told me that he had left in 1981 because of fear and I explained to him that "it is now 1984 and that government in Guatemala has a broad democratic view, as was demonstrated on 1 July this year.

Dr Gallardo has full rights to participate in whatever activities he chooses with the same rights enjoyed by all Guatemalans.

[Words indistinct] Gen Lobo Zamora speaks.

In turn, Lobo Zamora said that he is not accustomed to expressing an opinion on "political matters." He said, however, that it is a good sign that those Guatemalans who so desire have begun to return. Gen Mejia has offered them guarantees and he knows what he is doing.

HONDURAS

GENERAL LOPEZ SAYS U.S. TROOPS WILL NOT LEAVE

PA170418 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0016 GMT 12 Dec 84

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 11 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- General Walter Lopez, commander in chief of the Honduran Armed Forces, said today here that the U.S. troops stationed in Honduras will not leave. There are approximately 1,500 U.S. soldiers in Honduras who have been here for the past 2 years, since the beginning of the joint military maneuvers on Honduran territory.

Approximately 700 U.S. soldiers guard the military supply warehouses used to store the supplies used in the maneuvers and in carrying out the big projects.

The other units participate together with Honduran troops in small-scale rapid deployment maneuvers to justify their presence in the country. Honduran and U.S. officials are reviewing their military and economic relations to replace the 1954 treaties that have some obsolete clauses.

Although the negotiations with the United States for new military and economic agreements will not be settled soon, the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Honduran territory has not been considered. A withdrawal all depends on what the United States decides, Gen Lopez said. A U.S. civilian-military delegation is expected in Honduras on 19 December to discuss the new treaties.

LIBERAL FACTION ORGANIZES BU GIRON CAMPAIGN

PA141602 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 13 Dec 84

["Press Release No 1" issued by the Rodista Liberal Movement, MLR, Pro-Presidential Candidacy of Jose Efrain Bu Giron in Tegucigalpa on 12 December; read by MLR member Elmer Enamorado -- live]

[Text] The MLR Pro-Presidential Candidacy of Jose Efrain Bu Giron reports to the Honduran people, leadership, conventioneers, activists, and followers of the glorious Liberal Party of Honduras [PLH], the following.

1. Today the MLR Pro-Presidential Candidacy of Jose Efrain Bu Giron was officially constituted at the national, departmental, and municipal levels in recognition of the merits, virtues, and political activism of one of the most prominent men of the great PLH, Jose Efrain Bu Giron, who has been nominated as the MLR's presidential hopeful. Party officials have begun activities in accordance with the guidelines set forth by MLR National Coordinator Jose Efrain Bu Giron.

The country has been divided in five work areas, as follows: central area, which includes the Departments of Francisco Morazan, Olancho, Comayagua, La Paz, and Intibuca; Atlantic area, which includes the Departments of Atlantida, Colon, Islas de la Bahia, Gracias a Dios, and Yoro; northwestern area, which includes the Departments of Cortes, Santa Barbara, Copan, Ocotepeque, and Lempira; southern area, which includes the Departments of Choluteca and Valle; and the eastern area, El Paraiso Department.

2. With fraternal spirit and honoring the memory of Modesto Rodas Alvarado we urge all Honduran Liberals to support the movement pro-presidential candidacy of Jose Efrain Bu Giron as a symbol of Liberal unity and of unification of the great Honduran family.

3. We report that the central headquarters of the MLR Pro-Presidential Candidacy of Jose Efrain Bu Giron are located at and operating at Colonia Ruben Dario in Tegucigalpa, at offices next to the Boy Scout center. Our telephone number is 32-8840. We invite all supporters of this great leader to come to our offices every day at 1700.

NICARAGUA

COMMANDER TIRADO VIEWS RELATIONS WITH U.S.

PA170027 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1300 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Victor Tirado Lopez said yesterday that Nicaragua wants to maintain relations with the United States under conditons of equality, not of submission, as the Reagan administration would like. Speaking before a seminar of professionals yesterday in the capital, the FSLN National Directorate member reiterated Nicaragua's right to sovereignty and to have friendly relations with all of the world's countries which means that it does not have to depend on any power. He added that Nicaragua would like to follow its own development model, one based upon a mixed economy with state property as the center of social and economic advancement.

Tirado also said that because of Nicaragua's enormous backwardness the country cannot build a socialist system in the short term. He said that for the time being Nicaragua is working on the revolution's survival, despite U.S. aggression, more than seeking development because to achieve development the country must be at peace.

PCDEN'S ALTAMIRANO DISCUSSES U.S. RELATIONS

PA151440 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 Dec 84

["Direct Line" phone-in program, with guest Eli Altamirano, secretary general of the Communist Party of Nicaragua, PCdeN, and moderator Jesus "Chuno" Blandon -- live]

[Excerpts] [Name indistinct] I am calling from [word indistinct] neighborhood. My name is [name indistinct]. I would like to ask you a question, Comrade Eli. I would like to know your view on the negotiations under way in Manzanillo, between the Governments of Nicaragua and the United States. What are their projections?

[Altamirano] I think I understand your question and will try to answer it. It is complicated: We talk about revolution while negotiating with the mortal adversaries of the peoples and of the revolutionary processes. Naturally, it is a tremendous risk which the Nicaraguan revolutionary process is taking because at a negotiating table they are trying to reach more or less cordial understandings with the mortal enemies of our people and of mankind in general. The Nicaraguan Government wants to reach an understanding with imperialism, with its enemy, with the enemy of its people. However, it must also be acknowledged that the circumstances are anything but easy. The Nicaraguan Government is forced to engage in this negotiation because the opposite would be tantamount to contributing to the U.S. Government's imperialistic plans. That is the alternative, that is the contradiction. We have been aware of this situation. We do not condemn the Nicaraguan Government for seeking agreements with the United States. An agreement might help overcome the country's current military and political crisis and put an end to aggression, and possibly enable the government, the people, and the country to achieve tranquility while trying to overcome their own problems. However, above and beyond the present circumstances, we are still concerned about the fact that this is a negotiation with imperialism, which is presided over by one of the most reactionary U.S. Governments of this century.

We feel it is important to note that the national dialogue, which has been indefinitely suspended, should be resumed in order to reach agreements that would make the Nicaraguan Government assume commitments with the various social forces and political parties that exist here in Nicaragua concerning democratic and patriotic issues. This would make the government reach democratic, patriotic, and national agreements with all Nicaraguan and adopt solutions to the problems affecting them. These agreements would, in fact, represent a barrier against the gigantic pretensions of imperialism, which now wants to obtain at the negotiating table what it would like to obtain through an invasion. The United States wants a complete end to the revolution and the return of Nicaragua to the arms of neocolonialism. It wants to put an end to our achievements and to leave without resolution the issues of independence, sovereignty, integrity, and independent development.

The Nicaraguan Government, which so far has refused to grant the huge concessions sought by imperialism, must be bolstered at the negotiating table in Manzanillo by signing agreements with the various political parties and social forces to show that not only does it not want to grant these concessions but that, in fact it has other commitments within the country, which make it impossible for the government to grant the most minimal concessions in this area to imperialism. It is not only a matter of reaching agreements, but once reached, these democratic and patriotic agreements should be immediately implemented so that Nicaragua can no longer be diverted from its democratic and patriotic course.

We therefore believe that a dialogue is necessary, that the agreements that might be reached are necessary, and that this would give important and fundamental strength to both the Sandinist Front and the government in order to negotiate with dignity with U.S. imperialism.

[Blandon] I do not know, Eli, sometimes I think your are going to say something, but it seems to me that sometimes you miss the point. For instance, you admit that the Sandinist front is acting conscientiously by participating in negotiations made necessary by the conditions of aggression which imperialism has caused. You admit that this is an effort to alleviate these circumstances, these conditions. Yet, you also describe the situation as if these talks themselves entailed a danger. I, therefore, wish to say this: I do not know if I am mistaken, and if so, then you may explain this to me, but I understand that the Soviet Union has never dismissed the idea of a dialogue with the United States, it has never broken off its relations with the United States. Even during the harshest days of the war, Vietnam maintained the Paris talks, as you may remember, and Commander Fidel Castro has repeatedly expressed his desire to hold talks with the U.S. President. In other words, participation in a dialogue is not something unique to either Nicaragua or the Sandinist Front because the revolution is conscientious, is always a friend of peace, and believes in resolving problems through negotiation.

Now, what you are saying is also true, that if the Sandinist Front... [Altamirano interrupts]

[Altamirano] So where do you stand then?

[Blandon] I wanted to stress that the front's participation in the talks is not a peculiarity. Moreover, the front itself has indicated that no advances are being made at those talks because imperialism does not want to advance, because as [junta member] Cordova Rivas once said, imperialism wants to tie our hands. In other words, this is something widely acknowledged by the people. [words indistinct]

[Altamirano] But that was said by a leader.

[Blandon] Yes, but it seems to me that you are implying that the Sandinist Front needs to implement a national dialogue to keep it from negotiating the national sovereignty, when we know perfectly well that the Sandinist Front is the most radical enemy of imperialism here in Nicaragua. This has been seen in practice. So, regardless of the fact that the national dialogue might be necessary, it is not necessarily what will keep the front from [words indistinct].

[Altamirano] Listen, Chuno, let us explain this matter. First of all, it is not necessary to compare the case of Nicaragua, where the struggle is still for national independence, with the relations that the Soviet Union and the socialist bloc countries in general, countries which are already consolidated, maintain with the United States. Please, these are unacceptable comparisons. Also, why should one marvel at the fact that the United States might be trying to obtain at the negotiating table that which it seeks to obtain through an invasion? Why should one marvel over this, when in fact... [Blandon interrupts]

[Blandon] However, Sandinist Front has widely acknowledged this. It acknowledges this every day, so there is nothing new then in what you are saying.

[Altamirno] So, there is no reason to marvel over this, as the front itself acknowledges this and Dr Cordova Rivas himself has acknowledged that the United States wants to strangle the revolution.

[Blandon] Right, right.

[Altamirano] Well, that should be a cause for concern among Nicaraguans. Now, in addition, several parties, I think it was the Constitutionalist Liberal Party, the Social Democratic Party and the Nicaraguan Conservative Party, have stated their stands on the Nicaraguan dialogue. One of the conditions they imposed on the dialogue was that we Nicaraguans should leave the path open to the Sandinist Front so it can negotiate with the United States in Manzanillo. I think that your position concurs with that demand by LA PRENSA. On the contrary, we say, we must seek ways in which the Sandinist Front can further strengthen its resistance and its firm position vis-a-vis the United States. It seems to me that if the Sandinist Front makes democratic and patriotic commitments that precisely negate the pretensions of the United States, it will be stronger to negotiate with the United States in Manzanillo. That is what I meant.

Moreover, one must realize that the United States handles its relations while continuing to pursue its objectives, with which we are all familiar. We already know what its goals are. They are the goals already announced here by the reactionary forces in their famous documents, such as the one released in December 1983 by the Coordinating Board. We have also seen what the U.S.-Chinese negotiations through President Nixon have meant for the Chinese revolutionary process. We have also seen what the U.S. relations with the Egyptian revolutionary movement have meant for the Egyptian revolutionary process. So why marvel, especially when the United States claims and alleges that Nicaragua is in its own backyard, that Central America as a whole is the backyard of its interests, and that it is not willing to permit a revolutionary process here in Nicaragua. Why marvel? There is no reason to do that. Here we have to worry, so we must help the Sandinist Front maintain the firmness it has displayed to the end. The more allies it has in democratic and patriotic positions, the stronger it will be. I think this is what the whole thing is about. There is no reason to hurt anyone's feelings. One must simply be reasonable with regard to Nicaragua's difficulties.

[Blandon] When we talked before the program, you told me that we would engage in a serious dialogue, but if you begin by saying that my positions concur with those of the newspaper LA PRENSA and by comparing Egypt with Nicaragua, then it seems to me we are not talking as seriously as intended, Eli, so let us go back to the serious dialogue that we had intended to hold.

[Altamirano] Truth is not a lack of seriousness or a joke. Truth is truth, and it is serious. I am trying to be truthful. I am presenting positions as we go along, and since you referred to various international experiences, I too, am entitled to refer to such international experiences. We are not playing here: Imperialism is imperialism. The fact that it sat down to negotiate with Nicaragua does not mean it is no longer imperialism or that it is going to put aside its pretentions. This must be acknowledged. Every patriot must realize this and must be concerned. To the extent that he does not worry and that he closes his eyes, he ceases to be a patriot.

[Blandon] What is the conclusion made by the PCdeN, after participating so dynamically with its candidate Allan Zambrana and its vice presidential candidate, the old labor leader Manuel Perez Estrada; what is the PCdeN's evaluation of the campaign's struggle, waged to elect the president and vice president of the Constituent Assembly?

[Altamirano] Unfortunately we cannot approach this problem from a very wide angle. We must explain developments in light of the country's current political hardships connected with national security. This was not the best election. As everyone knows, there are reservations among the various sectors and parties and the various international forces. Therefore, it is not our duty to openly discuss these issues at this point.

We must foil the attempts by imperialism, international reaction, and the counter-revolution to turn the Nicaraguan elections into a banner of struggle to discredit the Nicaraguan process, government, and state, not in an effort to resolve our problems but in order to help the aggressive plans of imperialism and the counterrevolution. We will not lend ourselves to this game. Many people have asked us about this and we have refused to answer precisely so as not to play along with the adversaries, in any area, least of all in this very recent, delicate, and controversial area.

In spite of all that we have said, we maintain a position in support of the Sandinist Front and the future government in all those areas that mean effort, peace, or civic solutions, overcoming the crisis, independence, or the confirmation of our people's self-determination; in any effort to lead the country toward national and social progress. In this case we need only add that despite anything we might dislike about the electoral process, we guarantee our solid support for any positive efforts that the Sandinist Front and its government might undertake on behalf of the important interests I have mentioned.

[Blandon] Perhaps I did not ask this question properly, or perhaps you did not understand it when I asked. I meant to ask whether the elections favored the revolution in general, if they had opened a bigger political space. That is what I meant.

[Altamirano] Yes, definitely. The elections have really helped. Although the elections were torpedoed in a thousand ways by the reactionary sectors, and although it is true that neither the Sandinist Front nor the national reconstruction government responded as they should to guarantee the necessary climate during the campaign, it was evident that both the Sandinist Front and the national reconstruction front are willing to enter a civic stage involving democratic solutions to the national problems.

This has completely destroyed the U.S. claim that there is a military dictatorship here in Nicaragua which seeks to subject all the national forces existing here in Nicaragua. The door to Nicaragua's democratic development has been opened and this too is the work of the electoral process. Nicaragua's revolutionary process has been bolstered and placed on a democratic path marked by advances.

[Blandon] It would be interesting, Eli, if you would analyze the situation, with the idea in mind that we are not an island -- and I do not mean this in a geographic sense but in the sense that today no one is an island, not even those which geographically speaking are islands. There is such an interdependence among states that anything happening in the world either affects or benefits us, especially if it happens in Latin America. I would like to hear your view on the interesting situation currently observed in South America. How do you view the South American situation? How does the PCdeN view the urgent democratic changes that are currently taking place and some of the revolutionary situations that are currently taking place in several of the (?regional countries)?

[Altamirano] We think the situation is very positive because it also isolates the danger of the proliferation of Pinochetism in South America and in the hemisphere as a whole. Our peoples have lived subjected to long oligarchic and pro-imperialist dictatorships. What the Latin American people lack the most is a great political development.

Democratic-bourgeois freedoms, regardless of how democratic-bourgeois they might be, still guarantee the freedom of expression, of organization, of mobility, union freedom, union democracy, and so on. The placing of all this in the hands of each country's vanguard forces provides an opportunity for the people to march on behalf of an ideological and political evolution that might turn them into anti-imperialist political forces, into forces of national liberation, forces struggling on behalf of socialism.

Great prospects are opening for the policies of the working classes, the communist parties, and all the democratic and anti-imperialist forces in Central and South America. So we deem highly valuable the democratization process that is currently under way in South America, where long, historical military dictatorships have darkened the Latin American peoples' consciences.

LA PRENSA'S CHAMORRO VIEWS CENSORSHIP, EXILE

PA160258 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Text] Pedro Jaoquin Chamorro, codirector of Managua's LA PRENSA newspaper, arrived in Costa Rica last night. He will announce his position in view of Nicaragua's political situation this afternoon. The Nicaraguan newsman told "Impact News" that he will not request political asylum or remain in exile, but that he will not return to Nicaragua until the political situation becomes more clearly defined. Chamorro also said that the excessive press censorship imposed by the Sandinist regime makes it difficult for him to live in his country.

Radio Sandino on Chamorro Claims

PA160251 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Text] In this afternoon's edition, the daily LA PRENSA was compelled to rectify statements by codirector Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Barrios, who is presently in Costa Rica. While in the United States, Chamorro Barrios told THE WASHINGTON POST that he was forced to go into exile in view of the censorship imposed in his country, which had made it impossible for him to run the paper any longer because he had to fill its pages with foreign information of little national interest supplied by international news agencies.

However, anyone can pick up a copy of LA PRENSA and confirm that such a statement is absolutely false, particularly by scanning page two which is dedicated to commentaries and constantly carries articles criticizing the revolutionary government.

Now, Pedro Joaquin Chamorro says that he called THE WASHINGTON POST and asked that it publish a correction because he never said he had gone into exile voluntarily. However, Chamorro Barrios did say that he did not want his family to leave Costa Rica because he does not want his children to be brought up under a Marxist-Leninist educational system, which is another falsehood on the part of the LA PRENSA director.

PLI MEETING ACCEPTS CREDENTIALS FOR ASSEMBLY

PA172211 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] The Independent Liberal Party [PLI] special general assembly again failed to meet yesterday, Sunday, because of a lack of a quorum. The permanent commission, however, made some decisions. This is a report by PLI official Joaquin Mejia.

[Begin recording] The results have been quite simple. After about 2 hours of discussion [words indistinct] by those attending the meeting, it was agreed to accept credentials. The PLI still has not decided whether to participate in the National Constituent Assembly. A new general assembly meeting will be held on 6 January. [sentence indistinct] [end recording]

ARDE SPOKESMAN SAYS SANDINISTS DECEIVING RIVERA

PA171743 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 11 Dec 84 p 2

[Text] The Nicaraguan Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE) has rejected the negotiations that Miskito leader Brooklyn Rivera is pursuing with the Sandinist government and has stated that "Rivera is being deceived."

Jose Davila, ARDE political attache in exile, said that his organization is totally uninvolved in the negotiations between Rivera and the Sandinist government. He said that, moreover, its war strategy remains unchanged and continues to encompass the Indian fighters, as was indicated on 31 October. The ARDE representative said that the Managua government has provided no opportunity for dialogue and that its elitist forces had ended the civic talks. He noted that in these negotiations, the FSLN is not seeking to resolve the Indians' problems and end their alienation, but rather to obtain a cease-fire from its opponents. Davila emphatically stated that the FSLN never fulfills its promises made to the OAS, the Nicaraguan opposition, and the Miskitos themselves. "We believe that Brooklyn Rivera is being deceived," Davila said.

On another subject, Rivera announced that Commander Eden Pastora will soon rejoin the struggle and will distribute the aid he received in the United States among all of the groups that are fighting, including the Indians. He gave no details about the amount of aid received, although he did say that it is significant and emphasized that it will be used primarily to help the fighters who had considered requesting refuge in Costa Rica some weeks ago, but who later decided to continue the struggle.

GOVERNMENT SEEKS UNITY WITH ATLANTIC COMMUNITIES

PA180358 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] Guerrilla Commander Lumberto Campbell yesterday said that Nicaragua is a solid, indivisible nation and when we talk about autonomy, we are talking about another gain for the people on the Atlantic coast. Campbell went on to say that the revolutionary government is aware of the idiosyncracies of the people from this zone of the country, who speak different languages and have a different culture and religion. He said that the government will draft new, specific laws to meet the needs of the people in this region. Campbell gave assurances that the government is trying to correct the mistakes it made in the past and maintain the autonomy of the Rama, Sumu, and Miskito communities. A commission, of which Campbell is a member, was appointed for this purpose. It is to set forth, once and for all, the rules of the game that will bring unity between the people of the Atlantic and Pacific. Finally, Campbell said autonomy does not mean division, on the contrary, now more than ever the Nicaraguan people are united in seeking justice and understanding.

FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY WITH BULGARIA ESTABLISHED

PA141926 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 14 Dec 84

[Text] Sofia -- The Bulgarian-Nicaraguan Friendship Society was established today to help activate and expand relations and cooperation between Bulgaria and Nicaragua. The society will work closely with other political, social and mass organizations. Stoyan Grigorov, a well-known personality in Bulgarian social circles, was elected chairman of the society.

CASTRO DISCUSSES IMMIGRATION AGREEMENT WITH U.S.

FL150210 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Speech by President Fidel Castro to report on the U.S.-Cuban immigration agreement reached on 14 December; place not given -- live]

[Text] Compatriots: A few days ago, during the closing of the Federation of Secondary School Students congress, I reported that talks between Cuba and the United States on immigration matters had begun. Today, I can report that the talks have ended and that this afternoon an agreement was reached.

We would have liked to have announced this television appearance ahead of time, but in reality the agreement was reached at 1340. Furthermore, it was agreed to make the announcement at 1600, which is why we did not have much time to announce my appearance on television.

Today, we have been very busy with the delegation headed by our great friend, Comrade Mengistu. I am dressed this way not because it is a special occasion, but because from here I will immediately leave for a reception in honor of the visiting delegation.

I will begin by reading the communique signed this afternoon by Cuban and U.S. representatives. It reads as follows:

The talks between representatives of the Republic of Cuba and the United States regarding immigration matters concluded today with the adoption of agreements for the normalization of immigration procedures and thus ends the abnormal situation which has prevailed since 1980.

The United States will renew the issuance of preferential immigrant visas to Cuban citizens residing in Cuba up to 20,000 each year, especially to relatives of U.S. citizens and Cubans permanently residing in the United States. The U.S. side expressed its decision to set in motion, with the Cuban authorities' cooperation, all necessary measures to make sure that all Cuban citizens residing in Cuba, who qualify according to U.S. laws for immigrant visas, may enter the United States, up to 20,000 immigrants per year.

For its part, the United States will continue to grant immigrant visas to Cuban residents who are U.S. citizens' parents, spouses, and children who are single under 21 years old, and not include these visas in the yearly limit of immigrants previously mentioned.

Cuba will accept the return of those Cuban citizens who arrived in the United States from the Port of Mariel and who have been declared ineligible to enter legally into the United States. The number of these persons is 2,746 and their names appear on an approved list. The return of those persons will be carried out under an orderly reentry program with the cooperation of the two countries' immigration authorities.

The process will take place in phases and in an orderly fashion until all identified persons appearing on the approved list have returned. The repatrations will take place at a rate of 100 persons each calendar month, but should 100 not return during a particular month, the difference may be used in subsequent months, provided that no more than 150 persons return any calendar month.

The United States indicated that measures were being taken to give legal status as permanent residents, beginning now and with retroactive effect of approximately 30 months, to Cuban citizens who arrived in the United States in 1980 from the Port of Mariel.

The two delegations expressed concern over the status of those persons who have been released from prison after serving time for activities termed by Cuban penal laws as crimes against state security and wish to reside permanently in the United States. The United States will facilitate the admission of those persons and their immediate relatives through a program to be carried out within the framework of pertinent U.S. legislation. The U.S. delegation said that toward that end, necessary steps have been taken for the admission of up to 3,000 such persons during the 1985 fiscal year, including their immediate relatives.

The extent of the program and its possible expansion in subsequent fiscal years will be determined on the basis of experience gained throughout the process and the willingness expressed by the two sides to develop this program in such a fashion that will make its continuation possible until fully completed in the shortest time possible.

The representatives of the Republic of Cuba and the United States agreed to meet again no later than 6 months from now to review the progress of the implementation of these agreements.

I want to analyze the background of this accord. Discussion of immigration relations, or the normalization of immigration relations between the two countries, began after the Mariel incident in December 1980 with the Carter administration. The first contacts and discussions on this subject were held in December and January of 1981, but only for a brief time.

The new administration entered at the beginning of the year, and the contacts and exchanges on this matter were suspended until May 1983. In May, we received communications from the U.S. Government asking Cuba to accept the return of those Cuban citizens who had arrived in the United States from Mariel Port, and who in their criteria and laws were considered as inadmissible.

At this time a list was sent of some 800, and it was announced that this number would be several times larger, and the Cuban Government was asked if it could accept those people which they considered inadmissible or excludable, because the United States could not provide them with immigration visas to enter the country because U.S. laws stated that an indispensable requirement was the acceptance of the principle of the return of those so-called excludables.

At that time, the Cuban Government answered that we were willing to discuss this problem, jointly with all the other immigration problems which have affected relations between Cuba and the United States. This is to say, we could not accept the principle of simply returning those excludables without discussion, analysis and the resolving of the rest of the immigration problems.

In March 1984, the U.S. Government sent a letter to the Cuban Government saying it was willing to discuss this problem of excludables and the rest of the related immigration problems between the United States and Cuba. This took place this past March. The Cuban Government studied the proposal, and took into account that the U.S. election period was starting, and concerned that this complex and delicate matter could turn into an election issue in the United States, thus making it more difficult and perhaps compromising the possibility of a reasonable solution, we responded that we accepted studying and discussing this matter with the United States, but that we preferred to wait until after the U.S. elections, for the reasons I have already mentioned.

Later on, during Jackson's visit to Cuba, at the meetings held on 26 June, this matter was presented among the 10 points which Jackson brought, and which were described as important matters -- according to what he indicated and said -- toward improving relations between the United States and Cuba.

We explained to Jackson that the U.S. Government had contacted us in May, proposing to hold these talks, and that we had agreed, but had postponed them until a date after the elections, because of the reasons which I have already explained. However, if both parties agreed and if it was in the interest of the United States and the U.S. people to find a solution to this problem, we were willing to discuss this matter even before the elections.

At the press conference on the night of the 26th, I explained our position on this matter, and stated our willingness -- I publicly stated it -- to discuss this issue, if both parties agreed. In a matter of hours, 24 or 48 hours, before Jackson's departure from Cuba, the U.S. Government indicated its willingness to discuss the problem immediately, exactly as we had proposed.

The response was not immediate. It took a few days to arrive, because we had asked Jackson to communicate with the most probable opposition candidate at that time, who was Mondale, and to seek his views and his approval because we had indicated that we were willing to do it on a bilateral basis.

Of course Jackson was in complete agreement and as soon as he was able to talk with Mondale and inform him about the matter and get Mondale's approval, he communicated with us and informed us about it. As soon as this requirement was fulfilled, which seemed indispensable to us, we communicated with the U.S. Government, expressing our willingness to begin discussing the question immediately.

The United States proposed an initial encounter between the delegations of the two countries for 12 July. We immediately organized the delegation, presided over by Vice Minister Alarcon, to go to the United States. The site of the meeting was discussed. For us it was not an essential matter, whether it be in Havana, in New York, in Washington, anywhere, we made no objection. We said we were willing to meet there, if it would facilitate the discussion. They were not able to decide whether it should be here or there. We had no concern in this area. And in this way the talks on this subject began on 12 July.

They met on the 12th and on the 13th, both delegations put forth their positions. I will not go into detail but work was started in this direction. Later the second meeting occurred on 31 July and 1 August of this year. The U.S. delegation was presided over by Mr Kozak, I understand that he was a political adviser in the State Department.

Advances were made in this second meeting despite the complexity of the matters. However, the two delegations worked hard. Comrade Alarcon explained to us that they worked for many hours without rest and every point was discussed in detail. They returned to Cuba in early August. We can really say that progress had been made.

Nevertheless, in the first half of August, certain difficulties arose, which led to the interruption of the negotiations. This interruption lasted approximately 2 months, the rest of August, September, and part of October. In mid-October, as a result of an exchange of messages between the two countries, it was decided to renew the talks.

So the United States at the end -- in November -- and to say...[changes remark] It was agreed to renew the talks in November. In the month of November, the United States proposed as a date the days of 28 and 29 of that month. Our delegation departed for New York and on 28 November, the third round of talks began. This round was prolonged until 5 December. Hard work was done for practically a week.

Our delegation was in constant communication with our country, and each point, each question was analyzed carefully, and during that time considerable progress was made.

They were able to make a draft agreement. The delegation returned to Cuba and a fourth meeting was set for 13 December, yesterday. They worked all day yesterday and our delegation maintained constant contact with our country. They were analyzing the details and the words about the text that had been written. They worked all night, later I will explain why it took so long, until 0140, when they agreed.

I tell you the work was hard and detailed on the part of the two delegations. There were points that were discussed a great deal. In the first place, there was the point dealing with the concept of excludables. If the legislation is studied, the fact that an entry is considered illegal in a country, makes those who enter that way excludables, and all those who left from Mariel could be considered illegal.

The first point to be discussed was determining who were the excludables. The U.S. side expressed -- I do not want to go into very much detail, because I do not want to commit an indiscretion, but this is important -- the U.S. side expressed its intentions to resolve the legal status of the large majority of those who arrived from Mariel, and that the number of excludables, according to the judgment of the U.S. authorities, was limited.

Then it was necessary to determine that number and identify those so-called ineligibles. Throughout the process, several lists were submitted, one, two, three.

Our delegation went over these lists and work was done in our country in connection with these lists. The first thing we were interested in was to identify if they were persons who had really left through Mariel. Even during the period when the negotiations were interrupted, the exchange of information on the lists continued.

Our personnel worked hard in the very careful examination of those lists and great progress was made during those months in identifying all those persons. Sometimes it was a name, a surname, or not much information was available. There were cases of repeated names by mistake. In that manner the lists were purged, after the first one, the second, and so on. However, that work continued until today's early morning hours. Agreement had been reached in most every point, but the lists needed to be purged of all possible mistakes, repetition. The comrades in New York worked all last night and this morning. Plans had been made to end this process at about 1200 and the announcement made at 1500. In reality, it was almost 1400 when the exact number of persons was determined.

This chapter of the lists, the definition, and the identification of the ineligibles caused a lot of work and took a lot of time. Another point which was discussed at length was the one dealing with the time needed for the return of these persons. The U.S. point of view was to return them in a 6-month period. Our point of view was that it should be done in an orderly and careful fashion, because the return of these persons and their assimilation [into our society] would take a longer time.

We believe that even the United States itself needed more time to adopt all legal measures dealing with the return of these persons. We proposed that the return should be carried out at 50 per month. In the end agreement was reached on 100 per month. If in 1 month 100 are not returned, say, 30 are missing, they could come the following month. If more were missing they could all come, up to a maximum of 150.

Another matter was that even though 20,000 per year were mentioned, we voiced the need for establishing a maximum of 20,000. These are relatives of U.S. citizens. Besides, we have those who had been imprisoned for counterrevolutionary activities as part of this program.

In reality after a careful examination, it was impossible to establish a minimum. According to the laws, an exact figure could not be determined because each case had to be examined.

We understood that the argument was justified, which was the reason for a paragraph stating that the two sides would make every effort to achieve the best use of the quota. Agreement was reached on this point.

On another subject, everything had to be carefully examined to avoid conflict with U.S. laws which would hamper its implementation, because it would require changes in the laws, congressional resolutions, a complicated and delaying process. It was necessary to examine every point of U.S. law, because these people are there in the United States and the United States will admit those being reunited with relatives of those who emigrated from this country. For this reason it was necessary to pay great attention to all U.S. laws dealing with this. In the end, agreement was reached and a formula satisfactory to the two sides was found.

These immigration problems were responsible for an abnormal situation for nearly 26 years. Not only since 1980 -- of course in 1980 there was an abnormal situation -- but since 1959 there has been an abnormal situation.

We were very careful to maintain the greatest secrecy on the reason for the talks. In the United States there were some leaks on what was being discussed, and certainly the press agencies were placing special emphasis on the return of the so-called excludables because they were mentally ill or because they were criminals. I believe it is my duty to explain very objectively something which is well known by all our people.

On these two myths, I believe that, in a deliberate manner, international propaganda has made much of the mentally ill and the criminals -- much talk of the mentally ill who were taken out of hospitals and sent through Mariel. I want to once again reiterate, that not one single mentally ill person was taken out of our hospitals and sent to the United States through Mariel.

In the first place, because our country places much attention on the health of our people, and has made enormous efforts to attend to each of the citizens of our country, free of charge, whoever it may be, cost what it may, it is absurd to think that someone would resort to taking someone ill out of an insane asylum and sent them to the United States or to any other country.

We have too much respect for this. An ill person of any type is so sacred to us and forms such an essential part of our philosophy, conduct, and in our revolution's history, that no one would even try or even accept such a thing. All of this forms part of the [words indistinct] and myths, but this is one of the points which was much emphasized and propagandized overseas.

If a mentally ill person left here, it was because a family member claimed him and nobody knew about it. The families said they wanted that one, that one, and so on, and if an ill person left here, it was an exception for that reason or because nobody knew about it. Those types of people were not included in the categories of those who left from Mariel.

A few may have become ill while there, in those 4 or more years. We even have reports that some of those who were imprisoned there later developed these types of problems. In a group of more than 125,000 people, in any part of the world, in 4 years, some mental problems will arise in some people. That is why I say that those who may fall in this category, fall there because a family member perhaps claimed him, and nobody knew of the illness, or because they became ill later on.

This is the historic, objective, and rigorous truth. Nobody here from a mental hospital was sent to the United States. I want to emphasize that.

Secondly, criminals did not leave through Mariel. The whole world knows this as well. If some did leave, it was the exception, because nobody knew or saw them.

Through error or confusion perhaps, but never was the idea broached of sending criminals to the United States, because of a fundamental reason. In our own country's security and society, it is impossible to exonarate a person who commits a crime and then give him the pleasure of traveling to the United States or another country. If there were such cases, they were the exception and nobody knew about it.

That was precisely one of our guidelines, about this type of people not being authorized to travel to the United States. I repeat because of the very security of our people. This becomes something very simple, an attempted murder or murder, or something of this nature, are very serious crimes, and severely penalized under our laws and we cannot incur the irresponsibility of exonerating such persons. Several categories of citizens left from Mariel. Some of them wanted to be reunited with family members, but mostly those who left through Mariel were of the types who went to the Peruvian Embassy. Indeed, many who were in the Peruvian Embassy left through Mariel. I remember the applause, the solidarity, the sympathy, and the great international campaign which was unleashed when those persons entered the Peruvian Embassy.

After the incident, which cost the life of a guard, they called them dissidents and we said they are not dissidents. Those people did not enter for political or ideological problems. As a rule, those people are antisocial. We said this and we explained it. They are individuals who did not want to work or individuals who did not adapt to the laws or to discipline, or the spirit of sacrifice of the people. It was not a question of ideology. Generally, they were not dissidents, they were antisocials.

They tried to make this seem like a matter of dissidents. The campaign was worldwide. Anyway, I was happy to have those who wanted to receive them do so. And several countries went as far as to establish a UN commission. Costa Rica said: Let them come; and Peru said: Let them come; Spain said: Let them come. And we said: Fine, have all you want. Well, the facts do not bear this out. These individuals did not want to go to Santo Domingo or Central America or South America. These individuals wanted to go to the United States, the paradise, the ideal really, for this kind of people.

I am not going to say that they are all alike. There are other people that I cannot categorize as antisocial. I can say that they are insensitive to the revolution, to the fatherland. They are individualists who only think of their personal interests because they do not have the spirit of sacrifice. They are afraid of the risks of living in Cuba. Even this factor has had an influence. These people have been afraid. It is known that at the beginning of the revolution, many families sent their children to the United States when they believed the idiocy that they were going to be deprived of control over their children.

These were contributing factors, also the fact that here, it is necessary to struggle and work in a developing country or an underdeveloped country, which experienced colonialism for centuries and neocolonialism for decades and that the United States is a country with a much greater degree of development than ours. There have always been people who were ready to immigrate from a developing country to another where there are better material conditions or greater wealth. These people did not want to go to another Third World country, they wanted to go to the United States.

Those were received in Peru with applause, not from the Peruvian people, of course, but from the authorities. They paid for their passage and they kept them in a park. They played the part of humanitarians, of civilized people, who were helping those people escape from socialism, who saved them from Cuba. It was a 4-year experience, sufficient to prove what we said: that those "heroes" were not dissidents but rather antisocial, and later they began to behave typically. They destroyed that park. None wanted to stay in Peru.

They all tried to go to the United States. Finally, they organized demonstrations and conflicts and even blackmail and they did not want to abandon the park. In return for leaving the park after 4 years, they demanded visas from the government to go to the United States.

What did they prove? Well, people with that spirit, with that mentality, who were believed to be heroes publicized throughout the world were of the same type as many of those who want to leave and who left from Mariel.

There are other circumstances. There are activities that are crimes in Cuba but not in the United States. For example, prostitution is against the law in Cuba but not in the United States. Gambling is against the law in Cuba but not in the United States. The use of drugs is against the law in Cuba but not in the United States. There are cases of people who are criminals according to Cuban law but not according to the U.S. laws.

Some of this kind of people left from Mariel, but they were not in the category of mentally ill or in the category of being guilty of violent crimes. Some of them have subsequently committed violent crimes in the United States, as occurs anywhere. There are people everywhere who have never committed a violent crime and one day they commit one. There might be that kind of people there who have committed that type of crime. However, individuals who were in the category of having committed violent crimes were not among those who left from Mariel. That is the historical truth.

All this situation has a long history, as I said. All this abnormal situation regarding the migration between the United States and Cuba has been going on for nearly 26 years.

It began on 1 January 1959 when dozens, hundreds of torturers and murderers who committed atrocities against thousands of citizens in this country and who committed all kinds of crimes -- some killed 20, 40, 50 -- left for the United States. Where did the Ventura's, the Carratala's, and all those people go? To the United States. Hundreds of them left fleeing revolutionary justice. Those people had committed acts of genocide in our country, but they were received, given shelter, and protected from the very beginning by the United States. Those people were criminals. If any criminals left this country, they did so on 1 January. And they were real criminals, dangerous criminals. They left by the hundreds; they left on ships, on planes. They had no problems. And so did all sorts of thieves and embezzlers; real thieves. I am not speaking of a man that stole something, a piece of furniture, a suitcase. I am not saying that a person who does this is honest or did well, but those were men who stole tens of millions of pesos from this country and these were the men that on 1 January took off for the United States. Those were real thieves, not minor thieves. They were the owners of the casinos, the owners of the cheap gambling places, of the lottery, of the drug business, all of them left for the United States and were very well received. They were worse than those who left from Mariel. This cannot be questioned. And all this began on 1 January.

After this, and despite the fact that the legal departure was authorized, anyone that could steal a boat would head for the United States and he and the ship were well received. Whoever stole a plane was well received, along with the plane. Dozens of Cuban planes were taken from the country and if we are going to speak the truth then we must say that the history of hijackings began in Cuba, against Cuba. The world did not know about hijackings. It was after the triumph of the revolution when anyone who stole a plane was received as a hero in the United States that the ill-fated method of hijacking became popular. It was back then and for those reasons that the hijackings began but no one could foresee how far this phenomenon would go. They even awarded prizes of thousands of dollars to anyone who stole a plane from Cuba and took it to the United States. And the United States accepted all these people I have mentioned; they began to stimulate the departure from the country.

Before the revolution the quota to enter the United States was limited. Only a few thousand could enter when there were many people waiting for the chance to go and work because they were unemployed. In the past those who did not have jobs wanted to immigrate and then those who did not want to work wanted to immigrate.

After this the counterrevolutionary, the subversive, activities began against Cuba. There was a long period of recruiting among the people who had left Cuba. They were taught to handle explosives, weapons. They began to introduce weapons and explosives into our country. They were introduced by sea and by air. Plans for sabotage were drafted, counterrevolutionary groups were introduced in Escambray, Pinar del Rio, and other provinces in our country. The plans to sabotage our economy began. I am not inventing all this; all this was written about and proven by the U.S. Senate committees that were investigating this whole period. It was the time when the plans to murder the leaders of the revolution began. They tried to kill me by using all sorts of means. With chemical poison, disease, with rifles with telescopic sights, with explosives, with everything, and I am not the one saying it, the U.S. Congress, the U.S. Senate said this. It was a long period during which organizations were created, hundreds of counterrevolutionary organizations were created. Four persons would meet, decide on an acronym, a name, and ask the United States for help.

Then came the Giron invasion. They came, armed to the teeth, supported by bombers, cannons, and so on, ready to invade the country at the service of a foreign power. They were the dangerous ones; they were criminals in the worst sense of the word. They murdered children, they murdered families. I wonder what could have happened and how many more they would have killed because among them there were men like Calvino, do not forget him, he was one of Batista's most famous henchmen. How many more people would they have tortured and murdered? Thousands. They were really dangerous. However, we returned them to the United States and they were received with pleasure, with honors, and with great pomp.

Then came a long period of irregularities. As I said, before the revolution there was a limited quota, but after the triumph of the revolution they opened their doors to anyone who wanted to go there. They did not care whether it was 50,000 or 100,000; they took the technicians, the engineers, the teachers, professors, doctors -- they took half our doctors and we faced that challenge. We began to prepare more technicians and more doctors and here is where our struggle began with the development of our universities.

Ah, back then they took our elite; our intellectual elite who could not adapt to the conditions of sacrifice and struggle of a revolution. Yes, at the beginning they took many of these people from our country and we warned them about this. Before the Peru and Mariel incidents they took our technicians and intellectuals and now they are taking antisocials and it is not the same. We warned them about this.

Then the October crisis in 1962 and all the flights from the United States were stopped. There were dozens and dozens of families with permission to leave and they were just left here. There were no flights; no one could leave. There was a blockade throughout Latin America; Mexico was the only exception. They did not have anywhere to go, and this prompted the illegal departures. Every time some of these people arrived in little boats or in fishing boats -- they hijacked dozens of these little fishing boats -- there was great publicity and a great campaign and this was what caused Camarioca. After this a solution was found and all those people waiting to leave were able to do so. This was then followed by another blockade and the policy to prompt illegal departures continued. We warned about this on many occasions but it was used as a political weapon. A person would do anything, murder someone, just to take his boat. He would hijack a boat and arrive in the United States and go unpunished.

On several occasions, we warned them and told them that this had to be stopped and if not, it would create problems. Then, at last, this whole episode ended with the Mariel incident. I believe that these problems should have been solved 20 years ago, but because of a lack of maturity, common sense, responsibility, capacity to foresee the outcome, this policy was maintained for many years. This is the objective truth.

Well then, what changes have come about? Important changes. We can all recall that mercenaries were not only trained and organized to commit crimes and carry out sabotage in Cuba but also to commit them abroad and against Cuban installations, against Cuban officials at the UN, Canada, Mexico. These mercenaries would leave the United States and murder a companero of ours and then would return to the United States and continue to walk the streets of the United States freely and unpunished. We still remember those who committed the atrocious crime, those who sabotaged the plane in Barbados. Those men had been trained in these techniques by the United States. That is the truth. This policy cost many lives and they were never brought to trial. There was never an important, real, or objective change during these past 4 years of this administration, whose hostility against us is well known. However, it did adopt measures against the groups, trained back then by the CIA, who were carrying out terrorist attacks against the Cuban personnel stationed in the United States. It was the first time that an effective measure was adopted. Only recently one of the most important ringleaders was arrested, tried, and punished. Today, we can say that those men do not operate as they please within the United States. They have had the basic common sense to try and protect the order in the country because if a precedent is established in which everyone can do as he pleases, then all kinds of phenomena could be unleashed. That is a fact.

The second fact is that for the first time in this long period of time, measures were adopted against the illegal departures from Cuba and illegal entries into the United States. Measures have been adopted, however, at times there has been some hesitation. Not too long ago a group of stateless persons hijacked a boat in Varadero and threw the captain overboard when they were many miles offshore. Miraculously, he escaped, and they reached the United States. They were sent to some camps; there was a lot of propaganda; but some measures were taken. We discussed the case and were asked to send the captain to present charges. The captain went once, and he will go to the United States again. This took place some months ago, and there are some other cases.

We know that the United States is no longer interested in promoting illegal departures from Cuba. This is a second fact, and it was one of the factors that we took into consideration when we discussed this agreement.

In the third place, and this is a credit for Cuba, we have, thanks to strong measures adopted in our country against the hijacking of airplanes, been able to virtually solve the problem of airplane hijackings. This was one of the most worrisome problems for the U.S. people, due to the insecurity that they had about the fact that anyone carrying a bottle of gasoline, or a bottle of water, could say he would blow up the airplane if he was not taken to Havana. Even though the formal agreement between the countries had been broken after the Barbados affair, we have taken measures during these last years, measures that have become increasingly more strict, against hijackers.

We had two hijackings in 1981 and the perpetrators were sentenced to 10 years. In 1982 we had 5 hijackings, and the perpetrators were sentenced to 12, 15, and 20 years. in 1983, we had 11 hijackings; 10 came from the United States, and the perpetrators were sentenced to 10, 15, and 20 years. In 1984, we had four hijackings; one came from Brazil, one from the United States, and two from Colombia. One group is still awaiting trial; the rest have been given 15-year sentences. Cuba has been the one to solve the problem of the airplane hijackings in the United States. It was a diabolical invention carried out early at the beginning of the revolution, against Cuba. This is the unquestionable truth.

Now, conditions have been created for the first time in this 26-year period so that the immigration relations between two neighboring countries may function in a normal way. These conditions have been created for the first time so that [words indistinct] measure adopted by the two parties in this agreement, to stop the hijacking of airplanes. This benefits them more than it benefits us because they have many more airplanes than we do.

The fact that no airplane hijacking has gone unpunished has guaranteed their almost complete disappearance. If someone still does not know or understand this and hijacks an airplane, let him know that he will not be received like a hero in this country. He will be exemplarily punished.

The conditions have been created to eradicate all the illegal departures or the attempts for any illegal departure, to eradicate the tolerance and heroes welcome for those who hijack boats or try to illegally enter the United States. I suppose that the United States will be interested in maintaining these conditions and in completely discouraging any illegal departure because 25 years of bitter experience is more than enough.

Conditions have been created to stop the impunity of terrorist attacks on Cuban officials and installations. This is a lengthy evolution from that period in which boats departed from Miami to attack refineries, depots, ports, and ships in our country. We have walked a lengthy road and created the conditions and bases for the normalization of these immigration relations.

I have mentioned that those who have relatives and wish to join them in the United States will now be able to leave, according to our guidelines and tradition throughout these 25 years. We have asserted that carrying out a revolution and constructing socialism is a task for free and conscientious men. When we talk about willingness, we talk about willingness to build socialism in a conscientious way. We have never been interested in those who dream about a fantasy and the consumer society, its vices, or anything from that capitalist society. We have never been interested in them but opened the doors so that they may leave the country.

We have normalized this situation, according to our traditions. If there is someone with an important job or post, and there is no one to immediately replace him, well, we will delay his departure as long as necessary, until we can find a substitute. We are not concerned about this. However, the doors have been left open.

This refers mainly to those who have relatives, because they have priority. I believe that those who are in this situation will take this as good news and it is also good news for us; they will be able to join their relatives. Unfortunately, we cannot offer them a reunion here because our country is struggling for its development and has need of housing installations. Logically, those who are working here get first choice, so we cannot consider any reunions here for the time being. The reunion should be there.

Those who have been imprisoned for counterrevolutionary activities... [changes remark] I said earlier that there were 300 organizations here in the beginning; there were thousands of members. They were not 50,000 or 30,000 as they said, but they were approximately 15,000. This was a fact early at the beginning of the revolution. However, they left, basically due to the revolution's plans and due to the revolution's generosity. This was made possible by reducing their sentences and in other ways.

We know that there is a general rejection among the people toward those involved in counterrevolutionary activities, and this mistrust is logical. A few cases have been able to overcome this, with a lot of effort. We have always asserted, of course we have always asserted, our willingness to authorize the departure of all those who have been punished for counterrevolutionary activities, along with their families, so that they may live there.

Of course, all of them feel that the United States has an obligation to them because the United States has encouraged them to carry out counterrevolutionary activities. They feel they have the right to go there and receive some kind of recognition for their efforts. I imagine that this will be good news for them too and for us, too. Those who are relatives of U.S. citizens fall into another category.

Our responsibility will be to receive the 2,746 who the U.S. authorities consider as unacceptable or rejectable. They will be received within a reasonable period of time. Possibly many in the United States thought that we would not want, or be able, or dare to discuss this issue and find a solution to the issue, knowing as they do about the people's revolutionary zeal and their deep rejection of these elements who abandoned the country in one way or the other.

They don't know about the people's indentification, the ties, and the deep confidences in the leadership of their party, nor do they know about the confidence of the party leadership in the people. They would probably be surprised. That is what it is all about.

For us, this is simple. [chuckles] We have tackled more difficult tasks and problems. We have all the moral courage. Yes, we have it. They made the U.S. people believe that these guys were draculas, fearsome people. In fact, they were not so fearsome. I already said that the really fearful ones, the ones who did terrible things, the ones who committed great robberies, went there and were applauded and honored.

I must say that these people, and I sincerely believe it, those people are only slightly dangerous. Modestly speaking, they do not belong in the big leagues. They are small time; they are not first class. They do not constitute a danger to our country.

Well, what are we going to do with these people who will return gradually? We are determined to comply strictly with all agreements. We will not use any kind of subterfuge or obstacles. Nothing doing, we are serious. Seriousness is a characteristic of our revolution, which does what it wants to do in a committed fashion.

First of all, as they return, we will place them in quarantine because there are diseases in the United States that do not exist here, such as AIDS. Of course, we could be the recipient of any diseases in the Western world. However, that possibility is greater through the thousands of people going and coming back from the United States and the thousands of people who come here as tourists from the Western world. Nevertheless, we want to eliminate any possibility that those diseases will enter through this means. We will use all of our country's medical experience. First of all, we will place them in quarantine and give them a strict medical checkup to see if there is a single case of disease.

In this way, we can proceed to take the proper therapeutic measures, including isolation against AIDS, that is, sanitary measures. We have enough time to do this; if 1,000 come, [corrects himself] if a maximum of 100 return, then we have time to implement these measures.

We are determined to follow this policy. If the individual is sick because he was already sick when he traveled there and nobody was aware of this; or perhaps he got sick there, which is more probable, we will be able to carefully investigate all this when we receive the information. We could not get all the information because these people (?live) in different parts of the United States.

One of the most difficult achievements was the list. We wanted all specific details. It was not possible. We are interested in knowing whether an individual left from Mariel or not; whether the person is Cuban or not.

We even agreed that if there is a coincidence or name confusion and an individual comes back without fulfilling the qualifications, he would be sent back to the United States. We agreed to that in the so-called implementation act of the agreement.

If the person involved is mentally ill and afflicted with any other disease, then he will be sent to a hospital. He will receive full medical treatment as all sick people do here. Our hospitals are famous around the world; our hospitals are recognized around the world. It would not hurt us to give medical treatment to a person even if he got sick there. What we are sure of is that they will receive better medical treatment here than in the United States and it would cost nothing.

If it is possible to cure this person, then this person will be cured because many mentally ill individuals are cured in our hospitals. It doesn't matter if he is a citizen or not. To the extent of our capabilities, it would not hurt us to treat a U.S. citizen in a hospital for the mentally ill in Cuba.

Those people will receive all due medical treatment. If the individual has been in jail since arriving in the United States... [changes remark] There is a group of people who left Mariel and who have spent more than 4 years in an Atlanta jail. They have been in a foreign jail. Those people who have not committed any crimes in the United States and who return will undergo a medical exam. We will find them jobs and will help them rejoin society and make sure they do not have problems in the process of doing so.

Anyone who committed a crime in the United States, any significant crime, and most importantly, anyone who committed a bloody crime, should not remain unpunished. This is basic ethics and security reasons lead us to think that anyone who has committed a crime in the United States or in any place in the world should not remain without due punishment.

It is unthinkable that we would allow those who have committed bloody crimes to return here and be sent out on the streets. That is unthinkable. Therefore, even though there is no agreement and treaty regarding this, those people will be appropriately punished in our country. If they committed minor crimes, or crimes that are punishable here, they would have to face the corresponding punishment, the punishment agreed upon or the punishment in keeping with our laws. We will consider the legal aspects that correspond to each case.

That is the purpose, if it applies. We have agreements with many countries; if a crime is committed abroad, it may be tried here. We do not have this commitment. This is an ethical matter. That will be the policy to follow in these cases. No crime will go unpunished.

U.S. authorities have committed themselves to sending all documents, all details, and all evidence concerning these people. When a crime is confirmed, that crime will not go unpunished. That is the policy that we will follow.

They are talking of 2,746. They just cannot send us all those people. I imagine that many of them who have spent the past 4 years in prison will certainly decide of their own free will to return because if they have not committed any crime in the United States, they can be free in our country. I do not think they have too much sympathy for the consumer society after spending 4 years in a maximum security prison. But independent of their sympathy, the policy I outlined will simply be applied to them.

It will probably be difficult for the U.S. authorities to send them. Obstacles of all sorts can come up; legal obstacles plus other pretexts. Some say that if they return they will suffer political persecution.

There is no political persecution here. The mere fact that they are being sent back has absolutely no political implication. These persons will be treated most humanely here and in accordance with the principles of the revolution in line with the policy we have outlined. How many will be able to come? We will see and we will comply with our promise. If they cannot come, at least the people of the United States will be aware of the historical and moral fact that if all these men, who are considered criminals and dangerous, do not come, it is not because we do not want to receive them since we approved rational and equitable agreements. We are willing to receive them. I do not think this is a problem the revolution cannot solve adequately according to the morality and authority that characterizes it.

The discussions, I must honestly say, were characterized by hard work. Both delegations worked hard. Talks were serious, responsible, respectful, and there was the desire to find solutions. Days ago we commented on the existing situation in the world of mankind's worry about what lies ahead in the next years, particularly in the next months, and what will be decided about our future. I will not repeat here those words and reasonings.

However, much more urgent and important conversations will be held in the next few weeks. Our talks were limited to a specific problem: the immigration problem. We did not discuss any other problem. We are not in a hurry to discuss any other problems. We are calm, serene, firm, and strong. We are not going to plead for anything from anyone. Our constructive poistive, and receptive attitude does not imply an eagerness to negotiate; this we can clearly state. There will be more significant and important conversations and the world is waiting to see if these will bring a ray of hope. Talks are going on in Central America, with Contadora. There are talks between the revolutionary forces and the Salvadoran Govenment. There are talks between the United States and Nicaragua in Manzanillo. In January the very important talks will begin in Geneva between the USSR foreign minister and U.S. secretary of state, Gromyko and Shultz, respectively, on matters of tremendous significance. There are talks on the problems of South Africa. There are talks in other parts of the world on various subjects which have to do with peace and with the world's economy.

Let us hope that the same spirit that has prevailed in these talks prevails in the other talks in the weeks and months to come, that will take place in the world. Let us hope they can reach rational results. This is possible. When you discuss things without arrogance, with seriousness, responsibility, and goodwill, you will be able to find solutions.

As I said the day I talked to the students, nothing gives us the right to build hopes. We must realize and be conscientious that the world's current situation is dangerous and critical and that the problems are difficult and complex.

I repeat that we should not build any hopes. We in particular, should not neglect our defense, nor lower our guard in the least. I must say that the talks were always specific about a difficult and complex problem, which represents a constructive and positive fact. Thank you.

CUBAN GROUPS IN U.S. 'ANGERED' BY AGREEMENT

FL171635 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] News on President Reagan's agreement with Cuba has provoked anger and strong opposition among Cuban counterrevolutionary groups, according to the UPI News Agency.

The EFE News Agency said there was fear among those organizations' leaders that the immigration accord would be the first step toward the reestablishment of relations between Washington and Havana. They denounced the Republican administration's hypocrisy for waging a verbal war with Cuba and, at the same time, negotiating with it, according to EFE.

Luis Lauredo, president of an organization called Cuban-American Democrats, said that in his opinion immigration talks will end in some kind of Cuban Government diplomatic recognition. He added that this will reveal the hypocrisy and two-faced policy of this government, referring to Reagan's administration.

A columnist from the DIARIO DE LAS AMERICAS, which is published in Spanish in Miami, said he was very worried by the meaning of the Cuban and U.S. accord regarding the normalization of migratory matters. He said: I fear this is a first step of a new strain, calling the step given by Reagan unfortunate.

PEOPLE TO AWAIT INSTRUCTIONS ON U.S. IMMIGRATION

PA160409 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0029 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] Havana 15 Dec (EFE) -- Cuban authorities today advised people who are qualified to migrate to the United States to "do nothing until they receive instructions on how to go about this." The announcement appeared today within a prominently displayed box on the front page of the newspaper GRANMA, Official mouthpiece of the Cuban Communist Party.

The announcement also stated that only a limited number of cases will be processed each day by the U.S. Interests Section in Havana. Most of the processing will be done through the mail. Finally, it states that the Interests Section will announce the procedures to be followed for obtaining visas in the press.

The announceement is directed at the "people affected by the agreements signed by the United States and Cuba yesterday." It is obvious that it aims to prevent crowds of people in front of the U.S. Embassy.

The agreement, which was finally signed after four rounds of negotiations, grants Cuba a maximum quota of 20,000 immigration visas per years and an additional 3,000 for 1985 to benefit former political prisoners and relatives.

In exchange, the Castro administration committed itself to allowing the return to the island of 2,746 people who arrived in Florida on the "Mariel flotilla" in 1980. U.S. authorities described them as "rejectable," that is, "unacceptable."

To face an increased work load in the U.S. Interests Section here, 10 additional officials will arrive over the next few days. Then, the total number of employees in that diplomatic mission will be 20.

Today, GRANMA's headlines reflected "the satisfaction" of both sides over the agreement reached.

The newspaper published Fidel Castro's televised address to the nation, which was broadcast last night. In a headline, it stressed that "for the first time in 26 years conditions to really ensure the normal development of immigration relations between two neghboring countries has been established."

AMBASSADOR SOTO MEETS SOVIET UNION'S BAYBAKOV

FL172332 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] Nikolay Baybakov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the USSR State Planning Committee, has met with Cuba's Ambassador to the Soviet Union Lionel Soto, Secretariat member of the Central Committee. They discussed various aspects of the development of petroleum production in the Varadero-Cardenas Basin, and petroleum exploration and production in Pinar del Rio Province at the meeting.

DPRK OPPOSES ROK HOSTING OLYMPIC GAMES

PA140501 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Text] DPRK First Vice Premier Kang Song-san has expressed full support for Fidel Castro's opinions, contained in a letter sent by the top Cuban leader to Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee. The message refer to the celebration in Seoul of the next Olympics, and its consequences for the Korean people and the world sports movement.

Kang Song-san added that the DPRK is opposed to South Korea's hosting the games, but maintains the position, the same as Cuba's, that the problem should be solved by forming a single North-South team that would also serve as a link in the dialogue for the unity of the Korean nation. The North Korean prime minister pointed out the unhealthy political pressure that took from Cuba the post of alternate site for the Pan-American Games of 1987, and supported Cuba's just demands.

COMMENTARY VIEWS CONSEQUENCES OF U.S. POLICY

PA160343 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] If someone wants to know one of the consequences for Cuba of the U.S. policy of force, the answer is easy: Militarily, the country is stronger than ever. Until 1980, precisely when Republican Ronald Reagan won the elections, the Cuban Armed Forces were a regular army well-equipped for conventional war. It was formed by professionals and hundreds of thousands of reservists. In short, it was a permanent army which had carried out brave, unforgettable actions in the battlefields of Angola and Ethiopia. However, for the past 4 years the revolutionary called government has implemented a complementary organization called Territorial Militia units currently formed by 1.2 million armed men and trained men and women who are capable of participating in military operations on short notice.

In reality, all of the Cuban people have been preparing to successfully face an intervention and even a direct invasion of the country by the United States.

This is why we see that at least on one Sunday each month the Territorial Militia troops, organized in detachments in each suburb or municipality, train, help in the construction of forts, and perfect their knowledge.

Meanwhile, the children in preschool centers and elementary schools are taught with their teachers to move to the shelters that have been constructed underground. In addition, persons over 60 years of age, who are not fit for combat, practice evacuating other individuals and removing debris, while high school and university students devote part of their free time to military training in their respective schools or Territorial Militia units.

Of course, we Cubans do not want war but peace. We want peace in order to continue constructing socialism and to demonstrate that the socialist system is just. However, as President Fidel Castro said recently, peace is not attained with weaknesses but with the firmness, bravery, and the decision of the peoples. This attitude has characterized the Cuban revolution since its victory 26 years ago which would not have lasted without this firm line, without the decision to fight, to resist, and to pay the price necessary for our independence.

In Giron during the October crisis, or in facing the agressions of all types to which we have been subjected since 1959, the Cuban people have firmly faced the most difficult situations. In a recent speech at the congress of high school students, Fidel Castro discussed this topic and said: Some day our enemies will have to understand that we are not interested in having the blood of the U.S. and Cuban peoples shed in an imperialist adventure in our country. This is why we will always be alert to all of the signals and indications that the leaders of that country can give with regard to their adoption of a policy of respect for our country or a policy of aggression.

Later in that address, Fidel Castro made the following analysis: We are prepared for everything. We are prepared for war and for peace. I think, the top Cuban leader said, that our country's efforts, its firmness, its serenity, its braveness, its ability to organize, and its revolutionary and patriotic fervor have increased our possibilities for peace, regardless of the line that peace follows in the United States. He stressed that each day that has passed during the previous 4 years has made us stronger. The threats against our country have had the virtue of multiplying our forces. This is why, Fidel Castro said at the high school congress, even if a situation of detente emerged, and this is what we would like, we cannot be careless in our defenses. It is a reality imposed on us by our geographical location and the differences in the political, economic, and social systems used by our strongest neighbors.

PRESIDENT SENDS MISSION TO MEET WITH IMF IN U.S.

FL142046 Santo Domingo Radio Commercial Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 14 Dec 84

[Excerpt] President Salvador Jorge Blanco today announced that a nonofficial mission is in Washington explaining to the IMF several observations on the document of intent which the IMF presented to his government. Dr Jorge Blanco called a press conference at his office at the National Palace to give details on what it would mean to the country and the government if the deferred standby agreement was not signed.

[Begin Blanco recording] Before concluding, I want to emphasize the importance of an accord with the IMF, in other words, what would happen to the country if an accord with the IMF was not reached. [end recording]

The president's mission [word indistinct] to the capital of the United States, which will return on Monday, includes the governor of the Central Bank, Hugo Guiliani Cury; the technical secretary of the presidency, Orlando Haza sel Castillo; and Manuel (Guillontini) de Oraplan, a lawyer.

CENTRAL BANK REGISTERS $50.2 MILLION DEFICIT

FL180036 Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 10 Dec 84 p 2

[By Jose Romero]

[Excerpts] The Central Bank has registered a $50.2-million deficit between income and expenditures as of the end of November. In the 1984 January-November period, $903.9 million entered the Central Bank, and $954.1 million were spent. During the same period in 1983, there was a surplus of $195,000, the difference from $1,193.7 million in income and $1,193.5 million in expenditures.

In exports this year, revenue up to the end of November was $580.7 million. In the same period in 1983 it was $715.5 million. Among the main areas which produced income was sugar for $204.7 million, plus $11.5 million from sugar by-products. In comparison, in the 1983 January-November period, sugar produced $265.6 million, plus almost $9 million in by-products.

There were increases in other products compared with last year, such as coffee which rose from $76.6 million to $79.4 million, and in cacao which rose from $48.7 million to $66.1 million. Tobacco revenue fell from $29.8 million to $13.9 million, gold from $154.9 million to $120.1 million, ferronickel from $18.8 million to $8.1 million, and bauxite from $3.8 million to $1.8 million.

The Central Bank's total capital income decreased from $388.9 million in the 1983 January-November period to $213 million in the same period of 1984. Lending decreased in these same periods from $259 million to $117.1 million.

BRIEFS

NEW AMBASSADORS -- President Salvador Jorge Blanco will receive the letters of accreditation of the new ambassadors from Colombia, Trinidad and Tobago, and Costa Rica on Tuesday, 11 December. The new ambassadors accredited to the Dominican Republic are: Jaime Pava Navarro from Colombia, Carlos Alberto Caamano Reyes from Costa Rica, and Knowlson W. Gift from Trinidad and Tobago. [Summary] [Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 4 Dec p 5 FL]

CARICOM SEEKS CLOSER TIES WITH REGIONAL STATES

FL142000 Bridgetown CANA in English 1931 GMT 14 Dec 84

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Dec 14, CANA -- The Caribbean Community (Caricom) secretariat next week begins talks here with government officials from Suriname, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic on moves toward developing closer ties with non-English speaking regional states, it has been officially announced. Delegates from the three countries are due on the weekend at the invitation of the secretariat to open discussions on the proposed establishment of joint technical groups to develop areas of cooperation, particularly in the field of trade, senior Caricom spokesman Lloyd Searwar said.

Caricom heads of government at their last summit in July in the Bahamas, agreed to accord Dutch-speaking Suriname, Haiti, which is French, and the Spanish-speaking Dominican Republic observer status on ministerial committees dealing with health, labour, education, and agricultural matters. Caricom since its inception in 1973 has grouped only former and present British colonies.

Separate rounds of discussions are planned for the three visiting delegations. Secretariat officials meet Monday with the team from Haiti, on Tuesday with the Dominican Republic, and on Wednesday with Suriname.

OECS TO RECEIVE EUROPEAN COMMISSION FUNDING

FL180052 Bridgetown CANA in English 2255 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Dec 17, CANA -- The European Commission has approved approximately 143,198 dollars (U.S.) to fund technical assistance for export promotion in the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), the commission's delegate Joannes Ter Haar said. He said the technical assistance included two experts from the Irish Export Board to advise on the establishment of an Eastern Caribbean States Export Development Agency. The finance will be made available from the European Development Fund (EDF) under the Lome 11 Trade and Aid Convention.

It is considered that this export promotion agency, focussed on the OECS, within the wider framework of Caricom (Caribbean Community), will assist in the coordinated international marketing of goods and services, which is one of the principal objectives of the OECS Treaty of Basseterre, a statement from the commission said. It said that because external trade was of such crucial importance to small island economies, which can ill afford to support by themselves independent export promotion institutions, the establishment of a sub-regional OECS agency is anticipated to satisfy both individual country needs as well as develop their member-state markets in an expeditious and efficient manner.

In 1982 the European Commission approved approximately 1.3 million dollars (U.S.) supplemented this year by a further 168,257 dollars for a Caricom export promotion programme. This programme is still under implementation, but is projected to be completed by early 1985, the commission said. The statement said that with the new Lome 11 Convention now signed, and with its implementation beginning for a five-year period in March 1985, it was expected that if this present programme proceeded effectively, additional support for regional export promotion from the European Development Fund could be envisaged in the future.

BAHAMAS

DRUG, CORRUPTION INQUIRY GROUP REPORTS FINDINGS

FL172100 Bridgetown CANA in English 1457 GMT 17 Dec 84

[By Nicki Kelly]

[Text] Nassau, Bahamas, Dec 17, CANA -- A year after being appointed to investigate corruption and drug smuggling, a Bahamas' Commission of Inquiry has reported that it lacked sufficient evidence to determine whether Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling ever received money from drug traffickers.

It is apparent that the prime minister's expenditure over the years from 1977 has far exceeded his income, two of the three commissioners wrote. However, none of the known sources of funds made available to him appear to have been drug related, said former Bahamas' Chief Justice Sir James Smith and former Assistant Commissioner Royal Canadian Mounted Police Edwin Willes. The third commissioner, the Anglican Bishop of Barbados, Drexel Gomez, a Bahamain, was more critical, citing the prime minister's lack of prudence. It is certainly feasible that all of these payments could have been made from non-drug related sources, the bishop wrote. But in my opinion the circumstances raise great suspicion and I find it impossible to say that the payments were all non-drug related.

The commission did, however, link some of Sir Lynden's closest friends and political allies to drug payoffs, money laundering, influence peddling and perjury. The 500-page report asserted that corruption in the Bahamas must have reached [words indistinct] smugglers to operate openly from their own private islands.

The commissioners were shocked by the serious social and economic ills facing the society from drug abuse, and blasted the legal profession and banking industry for their role in facilitating the drug trade. They were also concerned by the extent to which the police and public service had been subverted. In our opinion, the whole nation must accept some responsibility, the report said. Apathy and a weak public opinion have led to the present unhappy and undesirable state of affairs in the nation.

Among those dealt with by the commission were cabinet ministers Kendel Nottage and George Smith, both of whom resigned in October as part of a major cabinet shake-up stemming from the inquiry. The panel found that Nottage, whether he realised it or not, had been fronting for accused American Mafia figure and drug fugitive Salvatore Caruana in a money laundering scheme. In May [words indistinct] Mr Nottage did not know Caruana's criminal record and his association with an organised crime family, the commission said. Nevertheless, a prudent man, such as we assume Mr Nottage to be, would make inquiries of the person. In Mr Smith's case, the commission determined that he had corruptly accepted funds from known smugglers and recommended that the attorney general determine what further action to take in the circumstances.

The commission acknowledged that the drug trafficking problem had contributed significantly to the deterioration of U.S.-Bahamian relations but found that there was insufficient evidence to support the claim that the U.S. Government or its agencies conspired to destabilise the government in Nassau. Parliament is due to debate the report on February 6 but there is speculation in some quarters that Pindling may call a snap general election before then.

GRENADA

BLAIZE ON GOVERNMENT PLANS, NEW CABINET

FL171753 Bridgetown CANA in English 2127 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Dec 15, CANA -- Grenada's Prime Minister Herbert Blaize says his two-week-old New National Party (NNP) government will devote its energies to creating an atmosphere conducive to sound economic development here.

Outlining government's plans and priorities to just over 1,000 persons at a thanksgiving service yesterday, Blaize said it would also move to reduce unemployment, variously estimated at between 30 and 50 per cent of the labour force. He said government had already received financial clearance from the United States for setting up factory shells in addition to promises of assistance over and above the 57.2 million U.S. dollars in aid allocated for fiscal year 1984-85. The prime minister stressed that as soon as these initiatives come on stream, government intended to set up industrial estates around the island to ensure that throughout the state, the development is blanaced and secure.

Among the countries and organisations he mentioned that have shown interest in providing assistance to the new government are Canada, Britain, China, France, those Caribbean states with security personnel on the island, as well as South Korea, Venezuela, the European Economic Commission, and the Organisation of American States.

Blaize said government could not wait on the agriculture sector for the badly needed development boost, and announced plans to set up an industrial development corporation aimed at speeding up applications by investors. We need a corporation that could move with expedition to give people answers quickly and assuredly, Blaize said, and we have already identified not only the chairman of the Industrial Corporation, but the deputy chairman.

He said the NNP intended to keep its election promises and government would immediately begin the task of making constitutional changes to provide for a system of local government. A chairman for the Constitution Commission had been identified, he said, and next week discussions would begin on the issue with serious work to begin early in the new year so as to put the control of government in the hands of the people.

In addition, Blaize said, each elected member of the NNP, which won 14 of the 15 parliamentary seats in the December 3 general elections, had already started the process of preparing financial declarations for public scrutiny in keeping with the party's manifesto pledge. We are definitely going to file our declaration of financial standing so that you would have the confidence to know that those of us who are handling you affairs will be handling them with integrity and good faith, he said.

He pledged to take firm measures to stamp out increasing signs of lawlessness, praedial larceny, and the use of obscene language in public places. Blaize also spoke of plans to remove certain substandard elements from the police force and to end the use of government vehicles outside of normal duties. He said machinery would be set up to stamp out the theft of farmers' produce which had reached alarming proportions and had forced some farmers to scale down their production to the detriment of the nation.

Government, he added, was looking forward to the development of a strong, well-trained, dedicated and committed police force to help uphold law and order. For those members of the police force who are not ready to reach that standard of dedication, it would be better for them to look for another job.

Blaize also announced the names of eight junior ministers and 10 senators, who along with a seven-member cabinet, would help to run the island's affairs. Five of the junior ministers were successful election candidates -- Tillman Thomas, an attorney-at-law, small businessman Kenny Lalsingh, pharmacist Felix Alexander, registered nurse and businesswoman Pauline Andrew and Alleyne Walker, book-keeper. The others are Ben Andrew, Bernard Bullen, and Norton Noel, an accountant and top party organiser.

Seven of the senators are party members -- Andrew; Bullen; Noel; former magistrate Larry Joseph; small businessman Alphonsus Antoine; Gloria St Bernard, a Roman Catholic lay worker; and Jerome Joseph, deputy manager of a private firm. The other members of the Senate are Charles McIntyre, president of the Grenada Chamber of Industry and Commerce; Eric Pierre, general secretary of the powerful Seamen and Waterfront Workers Union; and agriculturalist Norris James. The other three senators are to be appointed by the leader of the opposition as provided for by the Constitution.

Following is the full list of cabinet ministers and their portfolios, as well as the junior ministers

Herbert Blaize -- prime minister with responsibility for home affairs, security information, finance, trade, planning, industrial development, Carriacou and petit Martinique affairs.
Junior ministers in the prime minister's office -- Ben Andrew and Bernard Bullen

George Brizan -- minister of agriculture, lands, forestry, fisheries, and tourism
Junior minister -- Felix Alexander

Danny Williams -- minister of health, housing, community development, and women's affairs
Junior minister -- Pauline Andrew

George McGuire -- minister of education, culture, sports, and youth affairs
Junior minister -- Alleyne Walker

Dr Keith Mitchell -- minister of communications, works, public utilities, energy and civil aviation
Junior minister -- Kenny Lalsingh

Dr Francis Alexis -- minister of labour, cooperatives, social security, and local government
Junior minister -- Norton Noel

Ben Jones -- minister of foreign and legal affairs
Junior minister -- Tillman Thomas

PRC VICE FOREIGN MINISTER TO PAY 3-DAY VISIT

FL141429 Bridgetown CANA in English 0910 GMT 14 Dec 84

[Text] Georgetown, Gyyana, Dec 14, CANA -- China's Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Han Xu arrives here this evening on a three-day visit during which economic relations between Guyana and China will be reviewed, an official statement said. The Chinese official is on a Latin American tour which is also likely to include neighbouring Suriname, the announcement said. He will meet with Foreign Minister Rashleigh Jackson tomorrow morning and top ministry officials on Monday. Relations between the two countries have been steadily expanding following President Forbes Burnham visit to Beijing in June this year. The vice minister will be accompanied by the Deputy Director of the Department of Americas and Oceania in the Chinese Foreign Ministry Shen Yunao and Qui Shengshui, third secretary of the general office in the same ministry, the statement said.

MINISTERS HOLD TALKS WITH BRITISH OFFICIAL

FL151544 Bridgetown CANA in English 1443 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Dec 15, CANA -- Head of the British Foreign Service permanent under secretariat, Sir Anthony Acland, has just ended a two-day visit to Guyana as part of a familiarisation tour of the Commonwealth Caribbean. He met with Foreign Affairs Minister Rashleigh Jackson, Finance Minister Carl Greenidge, and officials of the two ministries. No details of their talks were disclosed. The British diplomat was on his way to attend a meeting of senior Commonwealth officials in Barbados.

CANADIAN FISHING INDUSTRY AID AGREEMENT SIGNED

FL151940 Bridgetown CANA in English 1740 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Dec 15, CANA -- Guyana has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) for a 3.1 million Canadian dollar grant to the fishing industry, it has been announced here.

More than 2,000 fishermen are expected to benefit under the fisheries infrastructure (AFI) project. CIDA will provide the equipment, procurement services, and technical advice for the construction of facilities for landing, boat repair, ice making, storage, and marketing at seven rural fishing centres.

The overall goal is to increase the supply of animal protein for domestic consumption by reducing past harvest losses, increasing the income of fishermen, and reinforcing the existing fishery cooperatives in their present role as local organisations of producers and distributors, a CIDA spokesman said.

A three-member CIDA team has arrived here for talks with government officials on a seven-million Canadian dollar airport project, which is part of Canada's 80 million dollar assistance programme to 13 Caribbean states for improvements to their air terminals. This project will see improvements to the runway, lighting, and fire equipment.

The CIDA team comprises project leader Bill Mitchell, transport specialist David Bugatsch, and Harry O'Connor, marketing and financial specialist from Transport Canada. The Canadians are discussing the airport project with government officials and local technocrats involved in the scheme.

BOLIVIA

LECHIN CRITICIZES GOVERNMENT'S CALL FOR ELECTIONS

PY142300 Paris AFP in Spanish 2242 GMT 14 Dec 84

[Text] La Paz, 14 Dec (AFP) -- Bolivian Labor Federation (COB) leader Juan Lechin Oquendo said here today that under the current circumstances, revolution is the only alternative left to the Bolivian people. Lechin Oquendo strongly criticized the government's decision to call for elections before the end of the elected government's 4-year term. He said that with this action, the government has broken the law and has disregarded the Constitution.

He pointed out that if the executive and the legislative branches of government, which are in charge of enforcing the Constitution, do not do so, then from that moment we will not longer respect the law ourselves.

Lechin Oquendo stressed that the parties have only been concerned about obtaining power, disregarding the economic problems and the demands of workers who, as the actual source of the national wealth, have tried to raise their standard of living.

Asked about the possibility that he may run for president in the next elections, Lechin Oquendo replied: All leftist parties will participate in the elections and will decide who the candidate will be.

MEXICO

SEPULVEDA VIEWS GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TOWARD CHILE

FL172056 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1820 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] Mexico City, 16 Dec (NOTIMEX) -- The Mexican Government is following the events in Chile with interest because of persistent violations of human rights, Secretary of foreign Relations Bernardo Sepulveda Amor has said.

The foreign secretary told a group of exiled Chilean leaders headed by Ansemo Sule, Hugo Miranda, and Alfonso Guerrero, that Mexico is greatly interested in Chile's democratization.

He added that Mexico is particularly focusing its interest on the democratic regeneration taking place in some South American countries and hopes that this tendency spreads to Chile.

He also said Mexico's position on developments in Chile is determined by its foreign policy, which supports the normalization of democratic life in the continent's countries. The executive secretary of America Solidarity with the Chilean People Secretariat, Alfonso Guerrero, expressed his fellow countrymen's gratitude for Mexico's initiative at the United Nations, where it, along with other countries, sponsored the UN's condemnation of Augusto Pinochet's regime.

The Chilean leader gave the foreign secretary a report on the struggle being waged by his country's democratic opposition sectors for the reestablishment of freedom and democracy in Chile, which is oppressed by a dictatorship. Finally, he pointed out the fact that Mexico's attitude in international forums in this effort might be followed by others.